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マホロバ
時空漂流幻獣譚
2
THE SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL
VOLUME
冬目景

マホロバ 2

時空建築幻綺譚

THE SPIRITS OF MAHOROBA IMPERIAL

KEI FUYUME
冬目景

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FILE 07: Her Mother's House #1

I don't remember when I decided I wanted to be an architect.
I just realized one day that I wanted to be a person who made houses.

Not grand mansions or sprawling business complexes,
but small, comfortable houses for people to live in.
And inside the sketchbooks and portfolios my grandfather had left behind...
I found just such houses
I looked at those hand drawn plans,
and felt that they were beautiful.

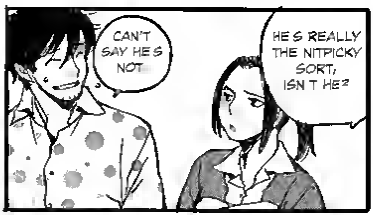
WHAT?! YOU'RE STARTING ON THE WATERWORKS NEXT WEEK?
工程表
BUT THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE PIPES HAVEN'T BEEN...
I MEAN, THE BLUEPRINTS AREN'T... WE'LL HAVE THEM DONE BY THE WEEKEND...
3
OH, REALLY? THANKS.
WHAT?
YUP. YOU'VE GOT DEFT HANDS
O-OKAY, I'LL SEE YOU AT THE SITE TOMORROW.
NOT BAD, NIWA.

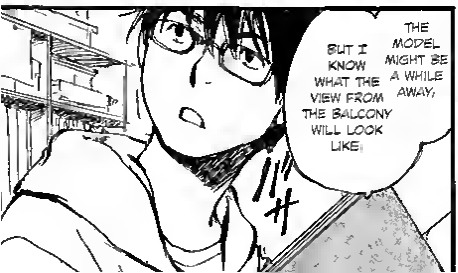
NOBODY IN OUR OFFICE CAN MAKE MODELS THIS CLEANLY, THIS FAST.
RIGHT, BOSS?
WELL, NOT ME, THAT'S FOR CERTAIN.
カチャ
FUNNY HOW EVERYTHING'S GOING ELECTRONIC THESE DAYS, BUT THE MODELS STAY PHYSICAL.
NOTHING BEATS PHYSICAL MODELS IN TERMS OF EASE OF UNDERSTANDING
UGH... WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A 3D PRINTER...
AND YOU'D BUY IT WITH WHAT MONEY?
SAVE THE WISTFUL WISHES FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY.
4
HELLO, ATELIER MOLIE.
OH, HELLO.
WHAT IS IT?
R-R-R-R
OH, GOT A CALL.
WHY DON'T YOU SHELVE THE DAYDREAMING FOR NOW AND GET STARTED DRAWING THOSE BLUEPRINTS?

RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND.
WE'LL HAVE IT READY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMPUTER MODELS AND PHYSICAL ONES HAVE DIFFERENT PURPOSES, DON'T THEY.
MHMM. THAT'S WHY PHYSICAL MODELS ARE PROBABLY AROUND TO STAY; TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES OR NO

NO; THE CLIENT JUST WANTS TO KNOW HOW THE GARDEN LOOKS FROM THE BALCONY.
IT'D BE EASY IF WE COULD JUST PRESENT THE MODEL.


CAN'T SAY HE'S NOT.
HE'S REALLY THE NITPICKY SORT, ISN'T HE?

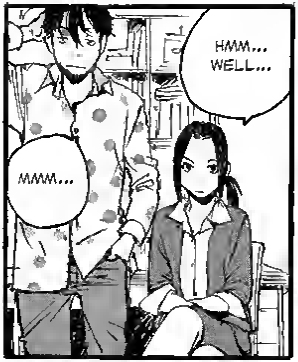

BUT I KNOW WHAT THE VIEW FROM THE BALCONY WILL LOOK LIKE.
THE MODEL MIGHT BE A WHILE AWAY.

NIWA, HOW LONG ON THAT MODEL?
UHH, I THINK ABOUT TWO MORE DAYS AT LEAST.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

HOW'D YOU DRAW THIS? YOU'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN THERE!
WOW!
I'VE SEEN THE PLANS THOUGH
CAN YOU GIVE ME A COUPLE MORE SKETCHES FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN USE A RULER OR ANYTHING...
HMMM...
YOU COULD'VE FLOURISHED IN A FINE ARTS COLLEGE WITH SKILLS LIKE THIS
COME ON, I'M NOT THAT GOOD
OH, OKAY. I'LL COLOR IT A LITTLE TO MAKE IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND

MR. NIWA WAS GREAT AT SKETCHES TOO.
YOU'RE HIS GRANDSON, ALL RIGHT.
.....
IT'S NOT LIKE HE EVER TAUGHT ME ANYTHING
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS?
I ONLY SAW HIM A FEW TIMES BEFORE HE DIED
.....
HUH, REALLY NOW.
HELLO? YOU'VE REACHED ATELIER MOLIE.
OH, HELLO. WE ALWAYS APPRECIATE SUZUKI LUMBER'S PATRONAGE.
RING

UMMM... SO I REMEMBER HEARING THE NAME ON MY FIRST DAY,
BUT IS THIS MIKI PERSON ALSO AN EMPLOYEE HERE?
OH, MIKI?
NOT HERE RIGHT NOW, I'M AFRAID.
I'LL MAKE A NOTE FOR MIKI TO CALL YOU BACK ASAP.
MHMM. WE KEEP MISSING EACH OTHER, I THINK.
OH, RIGHT. YOU HAVEN'T MET MIKI MET, HAVE YOU?
OH...
MIKI WORKS HERE AND STUDIES ARCHITECTURE ON THE SIDE TOO.
THOUGH RECENTLY MAKING FURNITURE S TURNED FROM A HOBBY TO MORE OF A SERIOUS OBSESSION, I THINK.


HMM... WELL...
MMM...

Mental Image of Miki
Tee hee
COULD YOU GIVE ME AN IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT?

Like a forest fairy of some sort?
Tee hee
OH, I SEE.
YOU COULD SAY, UHH, A NATURE LOVER? A NATURAL TYPE?

WHAT.
T-SHIRT AND FLIP-FLOPS IS PRETTY MUCH THE COMPANY UNIFORM, EVEN IN THE WINTER
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN MIKI WEARING IRONED CLOTHES, FOR SURE.

HEYA.
カチャ

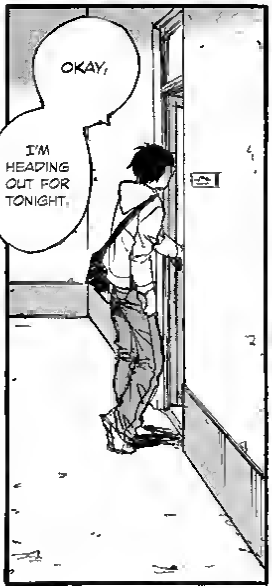
.....
I GUESS THEY WERE BEING LITERAL WHEN THEY SAID SHE WAS THE NATURAL TYPE...

SORRY I'M LATE.
OH, MIKI.
WE JUST GOT A CALL FROM SUZUKI LUMBER.
OH YEAH, THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THEIR TEAK SUPPLY.
OKAY, I'LL USE MY CELL
CALL THEM AND LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE HERE
.....
A DUDE. .
Haaaaaaa.
OH, HELLO.
THIS IS NIWA TOUYA, THE INTERN
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT RE YOU DOING WITH ALL THIS WOOD?
GOT IT AS A GIFT. I'LL TAKE IT UP TO THE CEILING TO WORK ON...

BOSS TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.
I'M NAGATSUKA MIKI. NICE TO MEETCHA.
Nagatsuka Miki (27)
Hobby: Carpentry

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BLUEPRINTS FOR THE FIXED FURNITURE?
OH, RIGHT. I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT.


OKAY,
I'M HEADING OUT FOR TONIGHT.

WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE SO GET A MOVE ON IT!

IS MIKI STILL WORKING?
THE DOOR TO THE ROOF IS OPEN.
OH, NIWA.
COME IN.
DID YOU MAKE THIS SHACK YOURSELF?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH, THIS ISN'T FOR MY WORK HERE.
THIS WOOD PROCESSING COMPANY I KNOW GAVE ME SOME BLOCKS OF WOOD,
AND I'M MAKING THEM INTO TOYS FOR A NEARBY NURSERY.

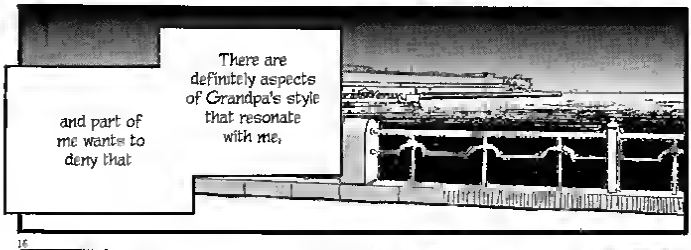
THIS SHACK IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE THOUGH.
WELL, I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO RENT AN APARTMENT, SEE. I ASKED THE OWNER FOR PERMISSION TO SET THIS UP INSTEAD.
THIS IS AN ANIMAL PUZZLE, RIGHT? I LIKED THESE THINGS WHEN I WAS A KID.
OH, WOW...
MY FRIEND WORKS THERE SO I'M DOING IT AS A FAVOR.
Stuff like this
I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE FOR TWO YEARS. I COULDN'T FIND A JOB WITH A BIG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SO I BASICALLY SPENT MY TIME BEING A BUM UNTIL JIBIKI RECRUITED ME.
I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON BEING AN ARCHITECT, THOUGH.
NAKADAI WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU BEING REALLY INTO MAKING FURNITURE THESE DAYS.
WELL... YEAH, I CAN'T DENY THAT IT SEEMS TO FIT ME PRETTY WELL. WOODEN FURNITURE IN PARTICULAR IS REALLY FUN.
OH, UMM. YES...
ハハハ
HIS HOUSE IS REALLY SOMETHING, ISN'T IT?
SO I HEAR YOU'RE NIWA TAKUSHI'S GRANDSON?

IT'S NOT OSTEN-TATIOUS AT ALL,
BUT IT'S A GOOD HOUSE. YOU CAN TELL IT WAS MADE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITHIN IT IN MIND.
.....
IT'S A PAIN FOR ME.
WELL, THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU AND MR. NIWA LED VERY DIFFERENT LIFESTYLES.

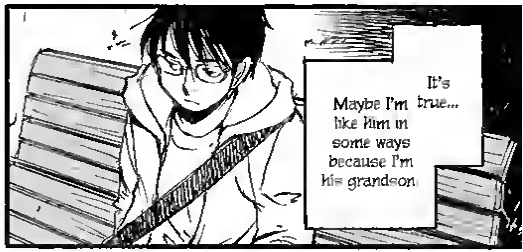
IT MIGHT FEEL WRONG TO YOU BECAUSE PARTS OF IT FIT YOUR EXPECTATIONS
SO THE PARTS THAT DON'T STAND OUT MORE TO YOU.
WHAT?
AND, , IT MIGHT ALSO BE BECAUSE HE WAS A LOT LIKE YOU.

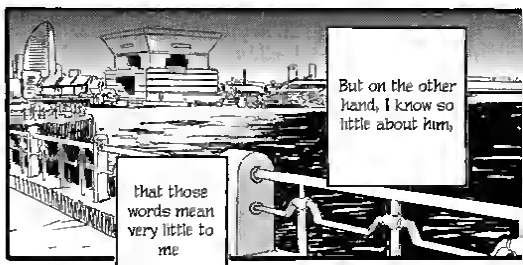
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "GOOD ENOUGH" EITHER,
YOU KNOW HOW SOMETIMES YOU LOOK AT ANOTHER PERSON'S WORK AND YOU JUST KIND OF KNOW THAT YOU LIKE IT, OR DON'T?
BUT IT'S GOT TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH GUT FEELING, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW.....
I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO TELL THAT KIND OF THING ABOUT BUILDINGS YET.
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT'S UNIQUE TO ARCHITECTURE.
IT'S GOT TO DO WITH BASIC HUMAN EMPATHY
15

I'd thought that the house felt unwelcome because of my bad relationship with Grandpa,
but the more I think about it, the more Miki's words make sense to me.


There are definitely aspects of Grandpa's style that resonate with me,
and part of me wants to deny that

.....


It's true... Maybe I'm like him in some ways because I'm his grandson.


But on the other hand, I know so little about him,
that those words mean very little to me

WHOA, TOUYA?
WHAT'S UP?
2-A
OH, UHH, YOU KNOW, JUST FELT LIKE IT.
WHERE'S MOM?
SHE'S IN HER ROOM.
17
MOM! TOUYA'S HERE!
OKAY, I'M COMING IN.

WHAT RE YOU LOOK-ING FOR?
YOU'RE STAYING THE NIGHT, RIGHT?

18

THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT ALL THE ARCHITECTURE STUFF IS STILL OVER AT YOUR PLACE
WHAT ABOUT OLD PICTURE ALBUMS, OR JOURNALS?

SOME OF GRANDPA'S STUFF IS STILL HERE, ISN'T IT?

YOUR GRAND-FATHER?
HMM.. I THINK WE THREW AWAY ALL THE CLOTHES

WHAT?!
STRANGE.
DID YOUR FATHER THROW THEM AWAY?
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE'D..
I THINK HE LEFT BEHIND A FEW ALBUMS, THOUGH.
HE WASN'T THE TYPE TO KEEP JOURNALS.
THEY SHOULD BE RIGHT... HMM?
THEY'RE NOT HERE.
WHERE ARE THEY?
19
SHE KNOWS HOW TO COOK?
NANAMI'S MAKING DINNER TONIGHT.
EITHER WAY, STAY THE NIGHT BEFORE YOU GO BACK.
THEY MIGHT BE IN THE STORAGE ROOM.

YOU SAID YOU WERE IN THE FARMING CLUB, RIGHT?
HORTICULTURE!
I'LL BE USING VEGETABLES GROWN AT SCHOOL, SO BE THANKFUL
OF COURSE!
LOOK FOR THE ALBUMS LATER
YOUR FATHER SHOULD BE HOME SOON.
...DAD...?
NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT...

File 08: Her Mother's House #2

BUT I DUNNO IF INSTANT CURRY COUNTS AS COOKING
I MEAN... IT'S PRETTY TASTY, I'LL ADMIT THAT...
OF COURSE IT COUNTS!

BESIDES, I KNOW LOTS OF RECIPES.
FRIED RICE, YAKISOBA, OKONOMIYAKI

2

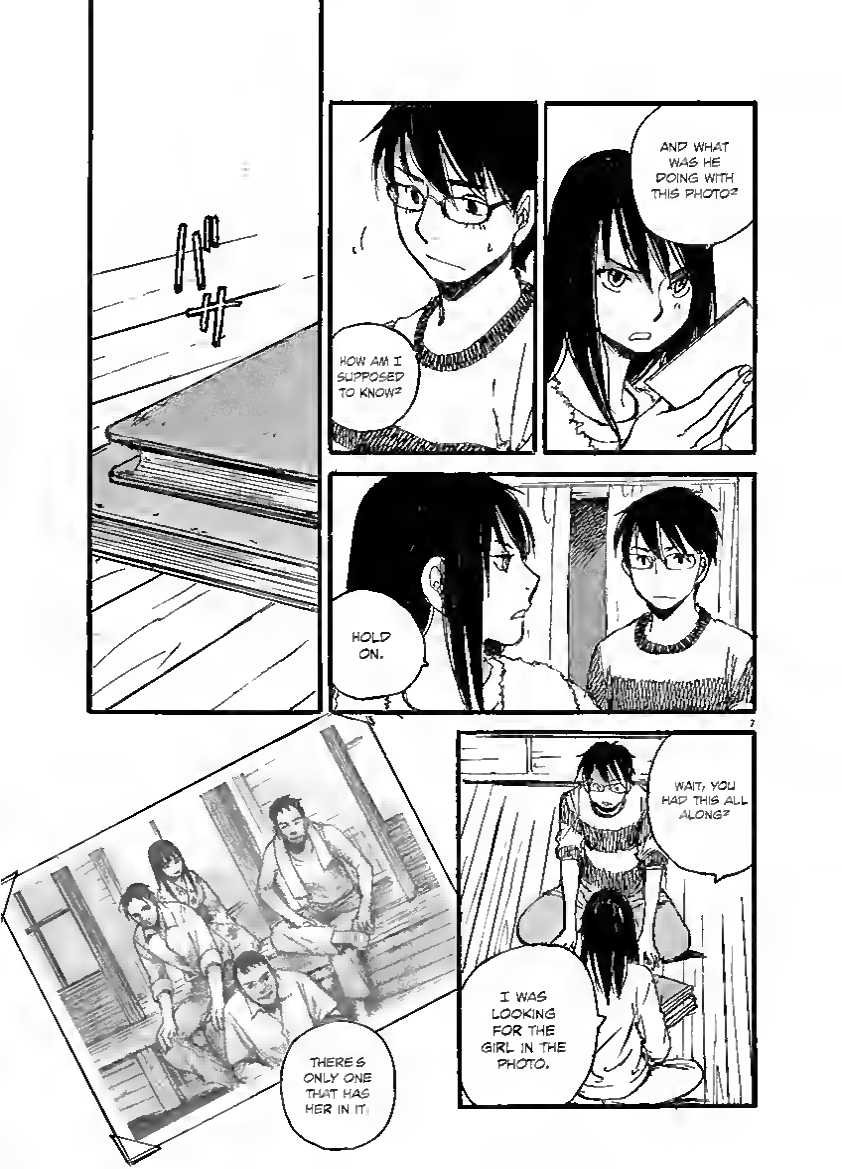
EVEN I CAN DO THAT MUCH
QUIET.
WH-WHAT ABOUT HAYASHI RICE, THEN?!
CAN YOU DO THAT?!

He hasn't changed a bit.
SORRY.
TOUYA, HOW'S SCHOOL?
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I HEARD YOU STARTED A PART-TIME JOB WITH AN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM
DID THAT KEEP YOU SO BUSY YOU COULDN'T EVEN VISIT HOME?
WELL, YEAH...
BUT I CAN COME BY ANY TIME, SO IT'S NOT LIKE IT MATTERS

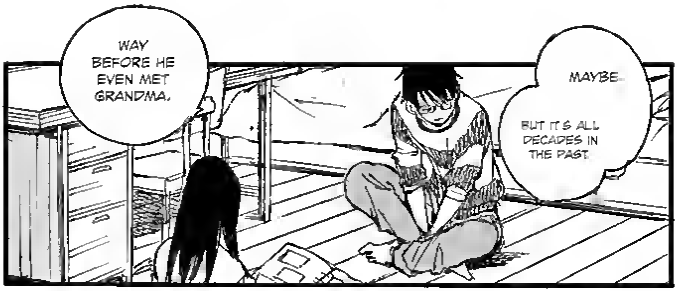
DON'T TALK SMART TO ME
THIS IS TALKING SMART?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
FAMILY SHOULD GATHER TOGETHER OFTEN...
WHAT, YOU MEAN LIKE NOW?
BESIDES, YOU TALK ABOUT FAMILY ALL THE TIME,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DID ALL THAT GREAT,
YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME WHEN YOU WERE MY AGE AND CUT TIES WITH GRANDPA
I'M DONE
THAT'S ENOUGH, TOUYA...

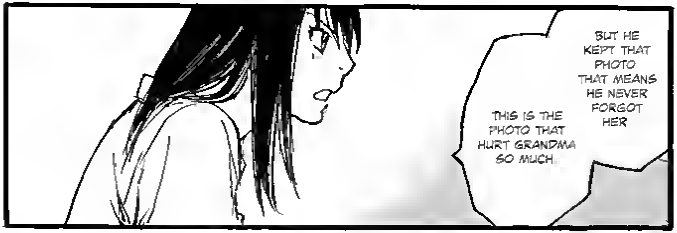
Why do we always end up arguing over little things?
haa...
ゴロ
TOUYA,
DID YOU COME LOOKING FOR GRANDPA'S OLD PICTURE ALBUMS?
YEAH.
CAN I COME IN?
ポポポ
OKAY, I'M TAKING A BATH, THEN
YOU CAN USE THE BATHROOM IF YOU WANT.

SO. WHAT'S THIS?
AH!
YEAH...
NOT MUCH LUCK WITH THAT, THOUGH...
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?
WHO IS SHE?
WHEN D YOU TAKE IT?
I WAS LOOKING ALL OVER FOR THAT...
...SHE'S THE GRANDMOTHER OF SOMEONE I MET A WHILE AGO
GRANDPA HELPED HER BUILD HER HOUSE WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
WHO IS THIS WOMAN?


HOLD ON.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
AND WHAT WAS HE DOING WITH THIS PHOTO?
WAIT, YOU HAD THIS ALL ALONG?
I WAS LOOKING FOR THE GIRL IN THE PHOTO.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THAT HAS HER IN IT!

IS THIS HER HOUSE?
THE PHOTO DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING WRITTEN ON IT
YEAH.
This is Mayuri's house.
THIS IS HER WITH GRANDPA, RIGHT?
I CAN UNDERSTAND IF THEY MET BECAUSE OF A JOB, BUT IT'S STILL WEIRD THAT HE KEPT PHOTOS OF HER LIKE THIS.
I MEAN, LOOK AT HER. SHE'S BEAUTIFUL
THIS HAS TO BE THE WOMAN HE LOVED
GRANDMA WAS TELLING THE TRUTH.


WAY BEFORE HE EVEN MET GRANDMA.
MAYBE...
BUT IT'S ALL DECADES IN THE PAST.


BUT HE KEPT THAT PHOTO THAT MEANS HE NEVER FORGOT HER
THIS IS THE PHOTO THAT HURT GRANDMA SO MUCH.

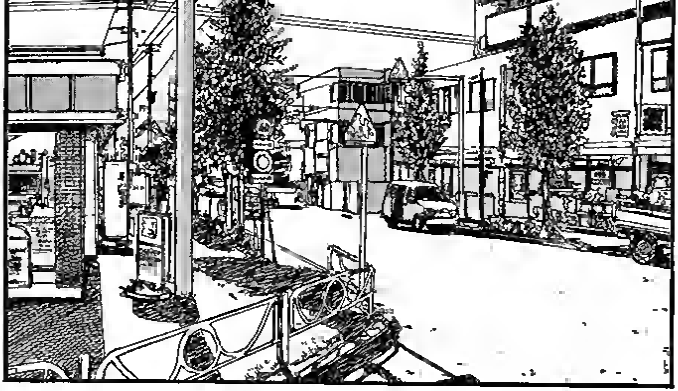
YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE GRANDMA'S SUFFERING IS THE REASON WHY DADDY HATED GRANDPA.
AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE HAS TROUBLE GETTING ALONG WITH YOU, TOO, SINCE YOU WANNA BE AN ARCHITECT JUST LIKE HIM.

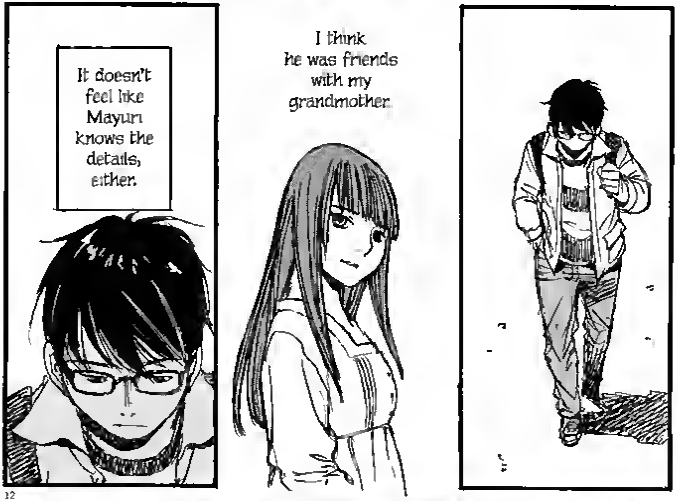
IT'S NOT OVER.

THEY'RE BOTH GONE NOW, ANYWAY.
...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH HIS HEAD.
GOING IN CIRCLES WITH ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS'LL GET US NOWHERE. IT'S ALREADY OVER.

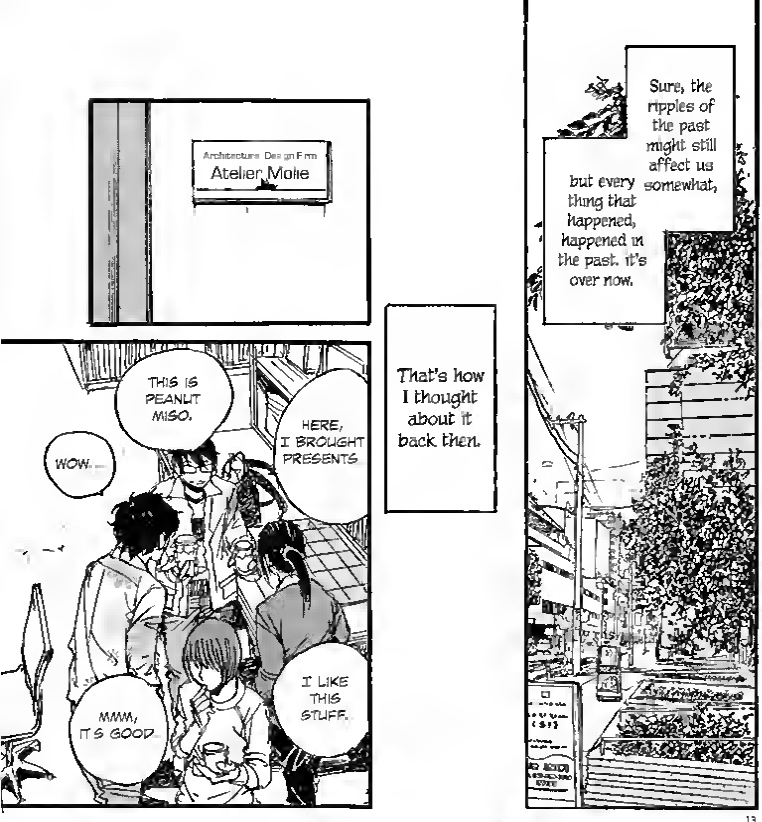
I'M TIRED OF SEEING YOU AND DADDY FIGHT ALL THE TIME,
I'M TIRED OF IT
AND THEN YOU WENT AND LEFT US HERE...
IT'S ALL CONNECTED.
THEY MIGHT BE GONE, BUT WE'RE STILL HERE AND FEELING THE EFFECTS OF WHAT THEY LEFT BEHIND
10
DON'T PAT ME ON THE HEAD.
SORRY.

AT LEAST CALL EVERY SO OFTEN.
I'LL DROP BY AGAIN SOON.
OH, AND TOUYA...
OKAY, MOM.
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
BE CAREFUL NOW
HUH?
OH...
UMM,
WHAT?




It doesn't feel like Mayuri knows the details, either.
I think he was friends with my grandmother.

but with everyone involved already dead...
I don't know what went on between those two,


Sure, the ripples of the past might still affect us somewhat,
but every thing that happened, happened in the past. it's over now.
That's how I thought about it back then.
Architecture Design Firm
Atelier Molie
THIS IS PEANUT MISO.
HERE, I BROUGHT PRESENTS
WOW...
I LIKE THIS STUFF.
MMM, IT'S GOOD.

SORRY, WE WERE JUST SO BUSY WE NEEDED ALL THE HELP WE COULD GET
WAIT, DID WORKING WITH US KEEP YOU FROM VISITING OVER SUMMER VACATION?
OH, NO, NOT EXACTLY...

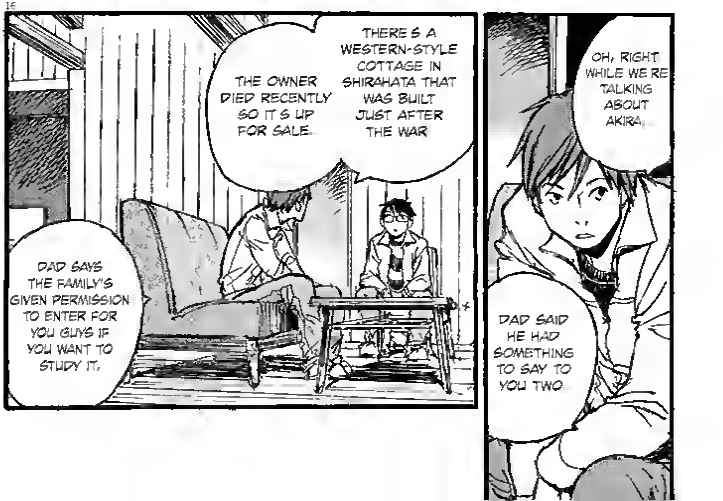
MUST BE NICE HAVING YOUR HOME NEARBY SO YOU CAN DROP BY WHENEVER YOU WANT.
WHEN I WAS A STUDENT I NEVER HAD THE MONEY TO BUY PLANE TICKETS

I WENT TO LOOK AT THE THINGS MY GRANDFATHER LEFT BEHIND.
WE NEVER REALLY TALKED, SO I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT SORT OF PERSON HE WAS.
WELL, I ONLY SAW HIM ONCE, MYSELF...
BUT HE WAS DEFINITELY THE QUIET KIND OF GUY.
I SAW A PICTURE OF HIM WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
HE WAS REALLY HANDSOME BACK THEN...
14
SO, UHH... I'M HIS GRANDSON AND ALL, SO... ANY FAMILY RESEMBLANCE?
NOT A BIT.
NOPE...
AH... I LOOKED AT HIS OLD PICTURES AND YEAH...
YEAH, AND EVEN IN HIS OLDER YEARS HE HAD THIS KIND OF QUIET GRAVITY.
AFTER I SAW HIM, I UNDERSTOOD WHY SOME PEOPLE CARRY AROUND PICTURES OF AKUTAGAWA RYUUNOSUKE.

HUH?
IT'S OPEN.
WHY?
ACK.
OH.
HEYA.
SAKAMOTO, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE'D YOU GET THE KEY?!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU PUT IT IN THE MAILBOX BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID YOU'D LOSE IT
That's dangerous by the way!
GAH A TV?!
DAD'S OFFICE BOUGHT A 40-INCHER SO I CALLED DIBS ON THE OLD ONE...

B-BUT WHERE'S THE ANTENNA?
This place is still analog!
ONE OF DAD'S OLD FRIENDS RUNS AN APPLIANCE STORE SO I ASKED HIM FOR A FAVOR.
SWITCHED IT TO DIGITAL.
I'LL BRING A DVD PLAYER NEXT TIME AND A COFFEE MACHINE TOO.
IT'S OKAY, IT'S ALL OUT OF MY OWN POCKET. I BROUGHT IT OVER FOR WHEN I COME OVER TO CHILL.
YOU'VE REALLY GOT THIS ALL PLANNED OUT, HUH.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE REALLY PLANNING ON FREE-LOADING HERE.

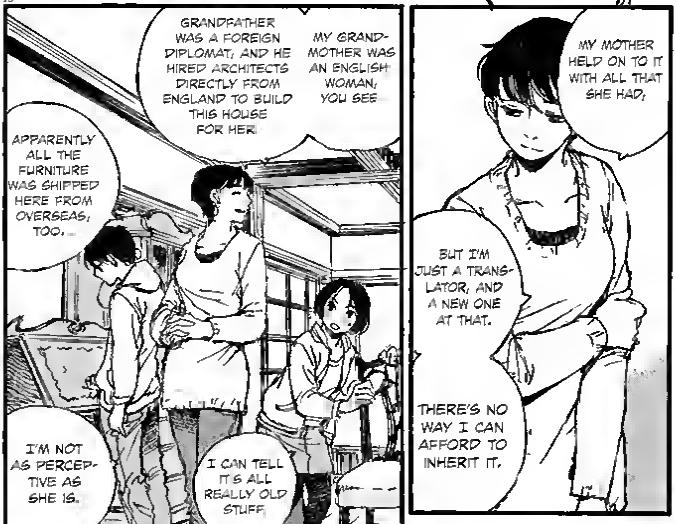
C'MON, MAN. AKIRA WANTS TO LOOK AROUND IN HERE TOO. LET'S HAVE A DRINKING PARTY HERE OR SOMETHING
WELL, SURE, I GUESS...

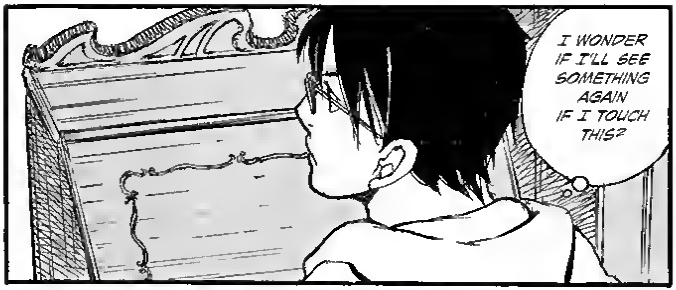

OH, RIGHT. WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AKIRA...
THERE'S A WESTERN-STYLE COTTAGE IN SHIRAHATA THAT WAS BUILT JUST AFTER THE WAR.
THE OWNER DIED RECENTLY SO IT'S UP FOR SALE.
DAD SAYS THE FAMILY'S GIVEN PERMISSION TO ENTER FOR YOU GUYS IF YOU WANT TO STUDY IT.
DAD SAID HE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU TWO.

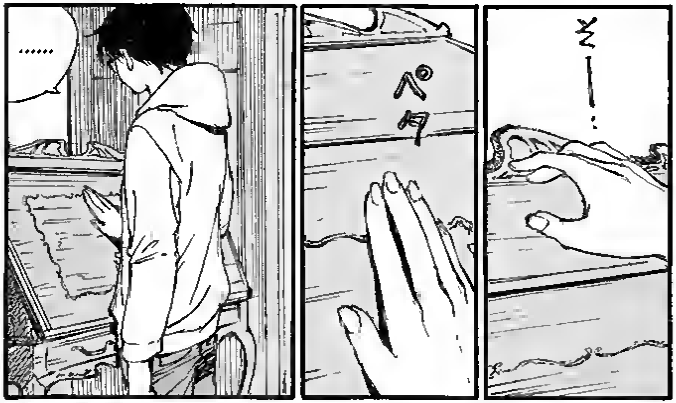
A TUDOR HALF-TIMBER!
OH MY GOSH!

SORRY, THE STUDENTS WILL PROBABLY CAUSE A RUCKUS
IT'S NO PROBLEM.
Calm down, Akira.
Are you seeing this it's an inlaid walnut cabinet with drop handles...

I JUST HOPE THEY CAN LEARN SOMETHING.
IT'S A REAL SHAME THIS HOUSE
I CAN TELL IT WAS A LABOR OF LOVE.
YES, BUT WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP IT...
A HOUSE THIS SIZE IS BOUND TO HAVE A HEFTY INHERITANCE TAX
18


MY MOTHER HELD ON TO IT WITH ALL THAT SHE HAD,
BUT I'M JUST A TRANSLATOR, AND A NEW ONE AT THAT.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN AFFORD TO INHERIT IT.
GRANDFATHER WAS A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT, AND HE HIRED ARCHITECTS DIRECTLY FROM ENGLAND TO BUILD THIS HOUSE FOR HER.
MY GRANDMOTHER WAS AN ENGLISH WOMAN, YOU SEE.
APPARENTLY ALL THE FURNITURE WAS SHIPPED HERE FROM OVERSEAS, TOO...
I'M NOT AS PERCEPTIVE AS SHE IS.
I CAN TELL IT'S ALL REALLY OLD STUFF.


I WONDER IF I'LL SEE SOMETHING AGAIN IF I TOUCH THIS?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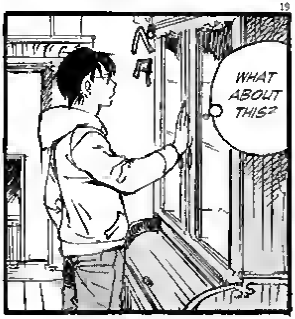
え！

I GUESS JUST BEING OLD DOESN'T MEAN IT LETS YOU SEE THINGS.
ペタペタ
TOUYA, STOP PAWING AT EVERY-THING.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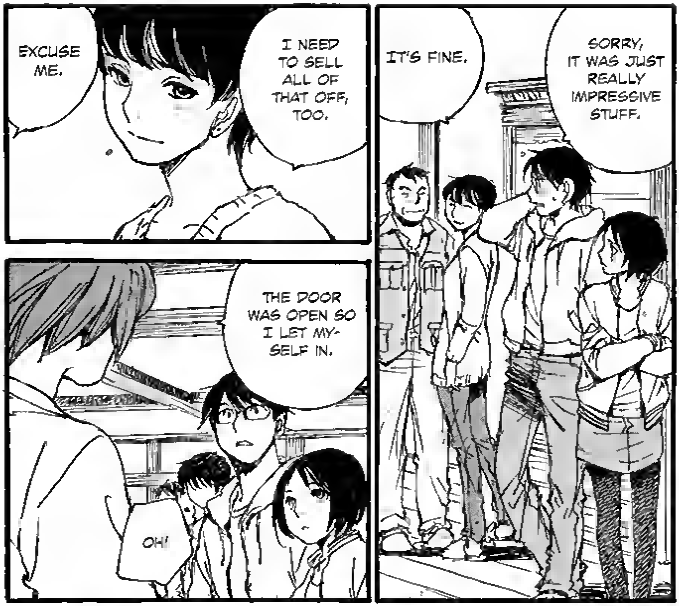
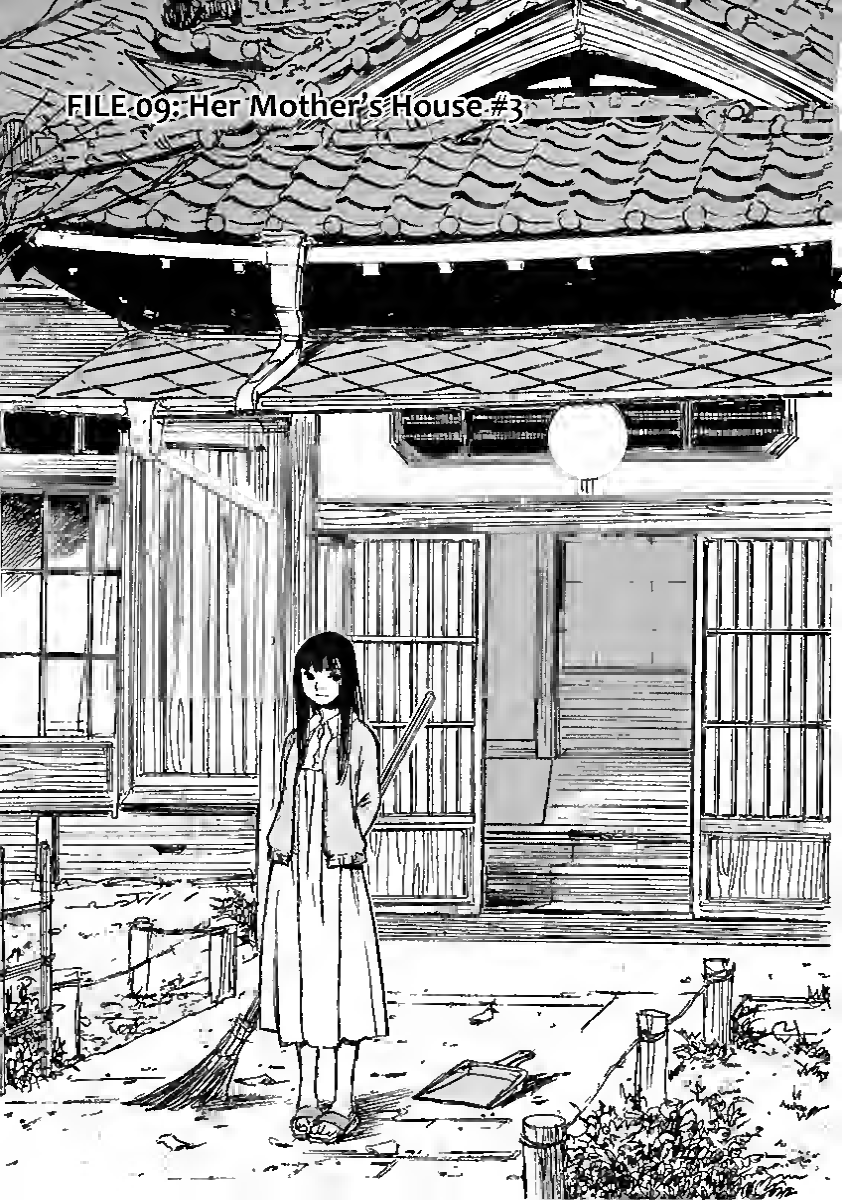
WHAT ABOUT THIS?


EXCUSE ME.
I NEED TO SELL ALL OF THAT OFF, TOO.
IT'S FINE.
SORRY, IT WAS JUST REALLY IMPRESSIVE STUFF.
THE DOOR WAS OPEN SO I LET MYSELF IN.
OH!

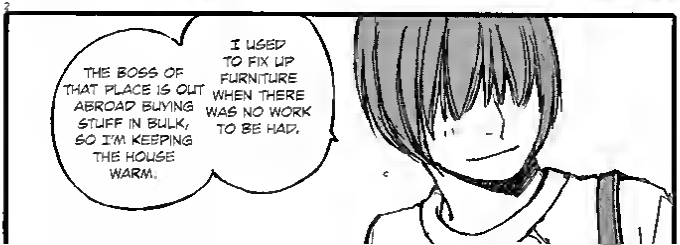
20

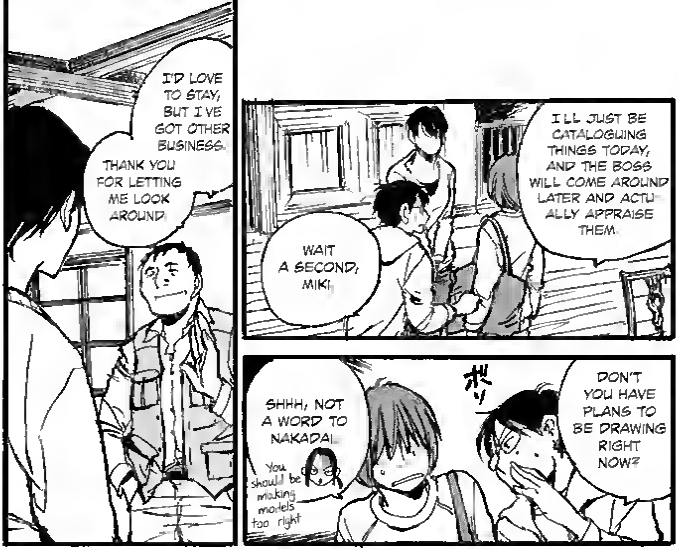
MIKI!
HUH? OH, HEY, NIWA.


FILE 09: Her Mother's House #3

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, NIWA?
MR GAKAMOTO BROUGHT US ALONG.
OH, OKAY.
WELL, I'M HERE BECAUSE.
I CALLED HIM.

OH, I SEE...
I USED TO WORK THERE PART-TIME.
AND THEY SAID THEY'D SEND SOMEONE WHO KNEW ENGLISH FURNITURE WELL.
I ASKED THE ANTIQUE SHOP FOR HELP WITH SELLING OFF THE FURNITURE.


THE BOSS OF THAT PLACE IS OUT ABROAD BUYING STUFF IN BULK, SO I'M KEEPING THE HOUSE WARM.
I USED TO FIX UP FURNITURE WHEN THERE WAS NO WORK TO BE HAD.

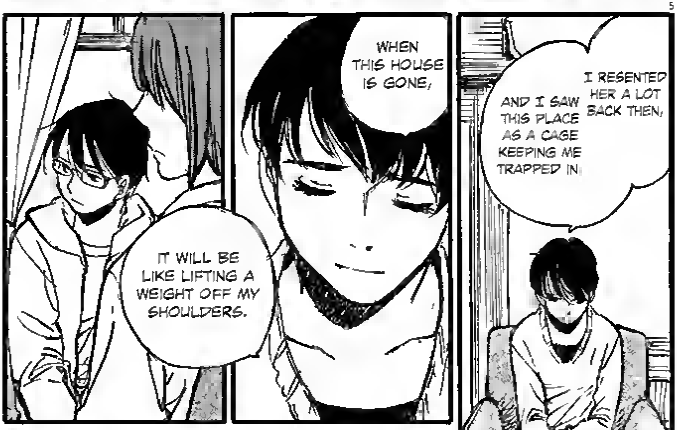

I'D LOVE TO STAY, BUT I'VE GOT OTHER BUSINESS.
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME LOOK AROUND.
I'LL JUST BE CATALOGUING THINGS TODAY, AND THE BOSS WILL COME AROUND LATER AND ACTUALLY APPRAISE THEM.
WAIT A SECOND, MIKI.
DON'T YOU HAVE PLANS TO BE DRAWING RIGHT NOW?
SHHH, NOT A WORD TO NAKADAI.
You should be making models too right

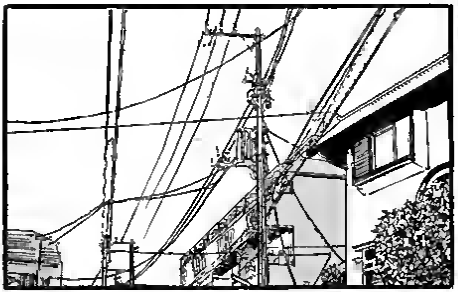
OH, YES PLEASE!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
YOU TWO CAN STAY, BUT DON'T OVERSTAY YOUR WELCOME.
OKAY...

BUT SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN'T APPRECIATE THEIR VALUE.
MY MOTHER REALLY LOVED THEM.
SORRY, THIS IS ALL I HAVE.
WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, SHE DIDN'T EVEN LET ME TOUCH THEM.
THAT'S PERFECTLY FINE. THESE CUPS ARE SO PRETTY.

MY FATHER PASSED AWAY FIVE YEARS AGO, AND I CONSIDERED COMING BACK THEN,
BUT SHE TOLD ME, "I'LL GUARD THIS HOUSE MYSELF!" AND REFUSED.
UMM...
DID SHE LIVE HERE ALONE?
YES...
WE WEREN'T ALL THAT CLOSE...

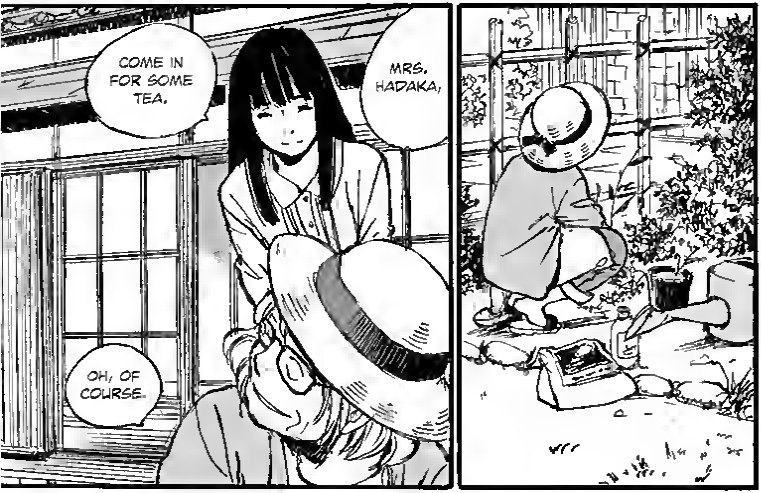
YOU SEE...
MOTHER STUDIED ENGLISH LITERATURE, AND SHE WANTED ME TO FOLLOW IN HER FOOTSTEPS,
BUT I WALKED OUT OF THIS HOME, DECIDING TO BECOME A TRANSLATOR INSTEAD.


I RESENTED HER A LOT BACK THEN,
AND I SAW THIS PLACE AS A CAGE KEEPING ME TRAPPED IN.
WHEN THIS HOUSE IS GONE,
IT WILL BE LIKE LIFTING A WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS.

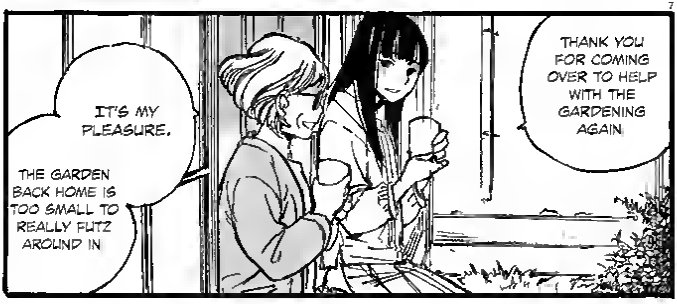


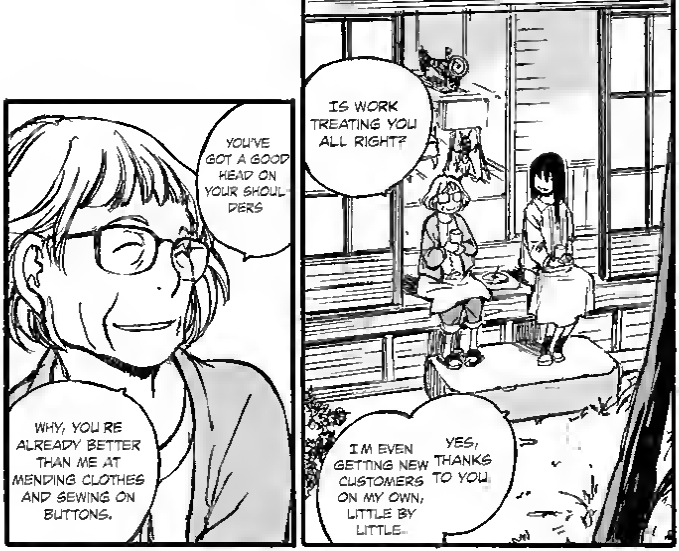
AFTER I LEFT, OUR RELATIONS ONLY BECAME WORSE AND WORSE.

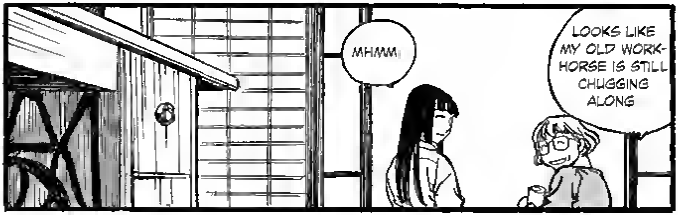
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE YOUR PARENTS DREAMS FORCED ON YOU.
SO I UNDERSTAND MS. MAKI'S SENTIMENTS.
BUT STILL, IS IT REALLY OKAY TO SELL THE HOUSE LIKE THAT?
YEAH.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SHE COULD KEEP IT EVEN IF SHE WANTED.
I wonder.
What did Dad want me to be?
That's probably why he has trouble getting along with you, too, since you wanna be an architect just like Grandpa...


COME IN FOR SOME TEA.
MRS. HADAKA,
OH, OF COURSE.

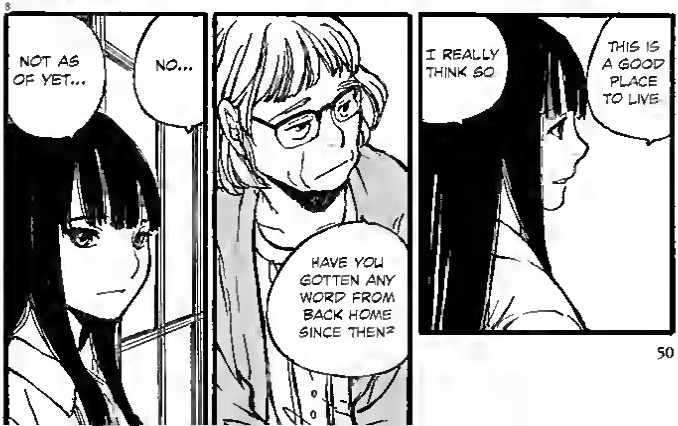
7


THANK YOU FOR COMING OVER TO HELP WITH THE GARDENING AGAIN.
IT'S MY PLEASURE.
THE GARDEN BACK HOME IS TOO SMALL TO REALLY FUTZ AROUND IN


YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS
WHY, YOU'RE ALREADY BETTER THAN ME AT MENDING CLOTHES AND SEWING ON BUTTONS.
IS WORK TREATING YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M EVEN GETTING NEW CUSTOMERS ON MY OWN, LITTLE BY LITTLE.
YES, THANKS TO YOU.


MHMM
LOOKS LIKE MY OLD WORK-HORSE IS STILL CHUGGING ALONG

8


NOT AS OF YET...
NO...
HAVE YOU GOTTEN ANY WORD FROM BACK HOME SINCE THEN?
I REALLY THINK SO.
THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE.

I JUST WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE PEACEFULLY HERE.
NOW THAT GRAND MOTHER'S PASSED AWAY
THERE'S NOBODY LEFT THERE WHO CARES ABOUT ME.
SHE CHERISHED HER TIME HERE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, YOU KNOW.
I CAN SEE THAT.....
FUKIKO ALWAYS SAID THAT THE MOMENT SHE WENT BACK HOME, HER ARRANGED MARRIAGE WOULD TAKE CONTROL OF HER LIFE AWAY FROM HER.

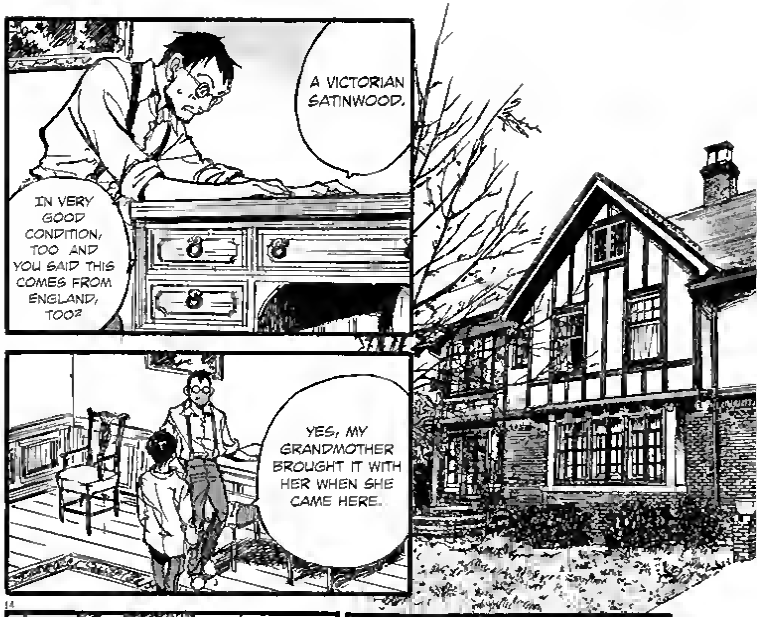
AND THAT'S WHY SHE HELD EACH AND EVERY ONE OF HER DAYS HERE CLOSE TO HER HEART.
FOR SOME REASON...
GRAND-MOTHER NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT MR. NIWA.
...SHE DIDN'T. HMM.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE HE WAS THAT DEAR TO HER.

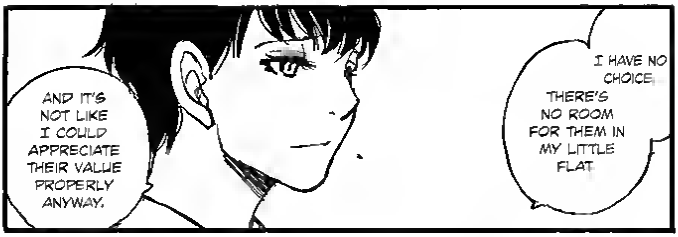
THE FIRST TIME I CLAPPED EYES ON YOU, I WOULD HAVE SWORN YOU WERE HER GHOST
DO I LOOK THAT MUCH LIKE HER?
HE PROBABLY NEVER IMAGINED HIS MEMORIES OF HER WOULD COME BACK INTO HIS LIFE LIKE YOU DID.
Mayuri...

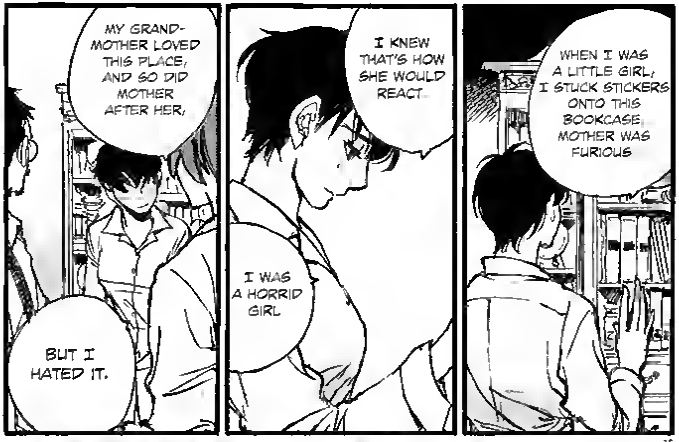
YOU CAN NEVER BE PRESENT AT THE FUKAZAWA CLAN'S FAMILY GATHERINGS
THE TIME HAS COME TO TELL YOU WHY
...I ALREADY KNOW.
I OVERHEARD GRANDFATHER TALKING ABOUT IT WITH ONE OF MY UNCLES
YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT MY PARENTS DIED IN A CAR CRASH.
BUT MOTHER ACTUALLY BORE ME IN SECRET WITHOUT FATHER'S KNOWLEDGE AND THEN TOOK HER OWN LIFE.

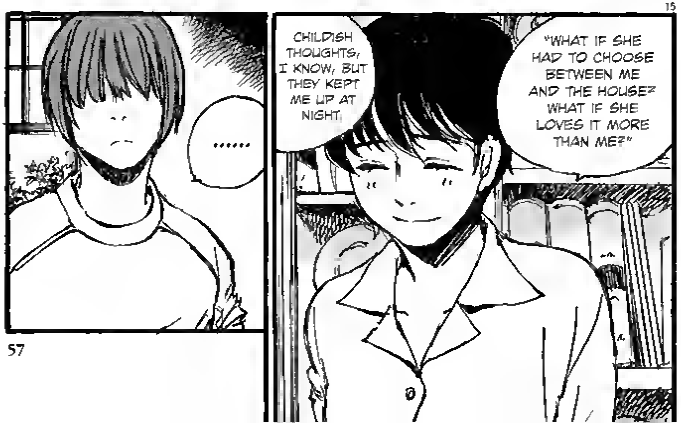
I KNOW THAT EVERYONE IS TRYING TO HIDE MY VERY EXISTENCE.
GRAND FATHER THINKS I'M A BLACK MARK ON THE FAMILY.
MAYUR!...

NO MATTER WHAT THEY OR ANYONE ELSE MAY SAY,
I WILL NEVER BE ASHAMED OF YOU.
YOU ARE THE PILLAR OF MY LIFE.
GRAND-MOTHER...
MAYURI...
13

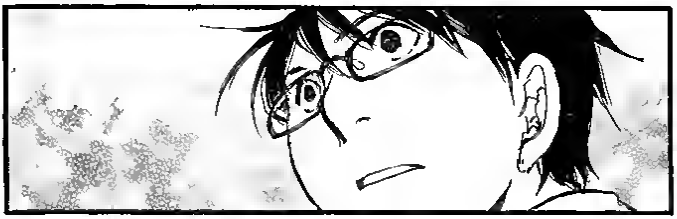

A VICTORIAN SATINWOOD.
IN VERY GOOD CONDITION, TOO. AND YOU SAID THIS COMES FROM ENGLAND, TOO?
YES, MY GRANDMOTHER BROUGHT IT WITH HER WHEN SHE CAME HERE.
14
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GET RID OF THESE?
I KNOW IT GOES AGAINST MY JOB, BUT IT'S SUCH A SHAME...
SHE WAS QUITE PROUD OF ENGLISH WARES.
SO MOST OF THE FURNITURE IS FROM ENGLAND.
I CAN TELL SHE TREATED THEM WITH CARE.


I HAVE NO CHOICE.
THERE'S NO ROOM FOR THEM IN MY LITTLE FLAT.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD APPRECIATE THEIR VALUE PROPERLY ANYWAY.


WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I STUCK STICKERS ONTO THIS BOOKCASE. MOTHER WAS FURIOUS
I KNEW THAT'S HOW SHE WOULD REACT.
I WAS A HORRID GIRL.
MY GRANDMOTHER LOVED THIS PLACE, AND SO DID MOTHER AFTER HER.
BUT I HATED IT.


"WHAT IF SHE HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ME AND THE HOUSE? WHAT IF SHE LOVES IT MORE THAN ME?"
CHILDISH THOUGHTS, I KNOW, BUT THEY KEPT ME UP AT NIGHT.
.....

I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE.
YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR HOURS! NAKADAI IS REALLY PISSED.
OH, RIGHT. THE PLANS.
OH, DON'T STAND OUTSIDE LIKE THAT. DO COME IN.
MIKI!
BE CAREFUL. THE THORNS ARE VERY SHARP.
OW! THESE BRANCHES ARE POKING ME!
ACK!
IT WON'T COME LOOSE...



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SORRY, MAN I'LL HURRY OVER TO THE OFFICE.
I knew it.
This house is telling me something.
ARE THESE ALL ROSE BUSHES?
YES, THEY ARE.
THE ROSE THORNS PRICKED YOUR SLEEVE
OH...
OH, IT'S OKAY. JUST A LITTLE SCRATCH.

MOTHER TOOK GOOD CARE OF THEM WHILE SHE COULD;
BUT AFTER SHE FELL SICK SHE COULDN'T TEND TO THEM ANYMORE; AND THEY DRIED OUT LIKE THAT.
19
EVEN THE GARDEN IS ENGLISH-STYLE; HUH.
PERHAPS THERE ARE MANY OTHER FLOWERS PLANTED HERE, TOO.
THEY WERE HERE WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
Roses...?
I wonder what it means?
THEY USED TO SMELL SO LOVELY IN THE EARLY SUMMER.

WELL THEN. WE'LL COME BACK LATER TO TAKE IT AWAY.
THANK YOU.
I'M ALL DONE WITH THE PRICING.
OH, RIGHT.
20
There's something there.
Something that this house is trying to tell Ms. Maki before it's too late...

This house has a message.
Something it wants to tell her...
But... what is there I can do?

FILE 10: Her Mother's House #4

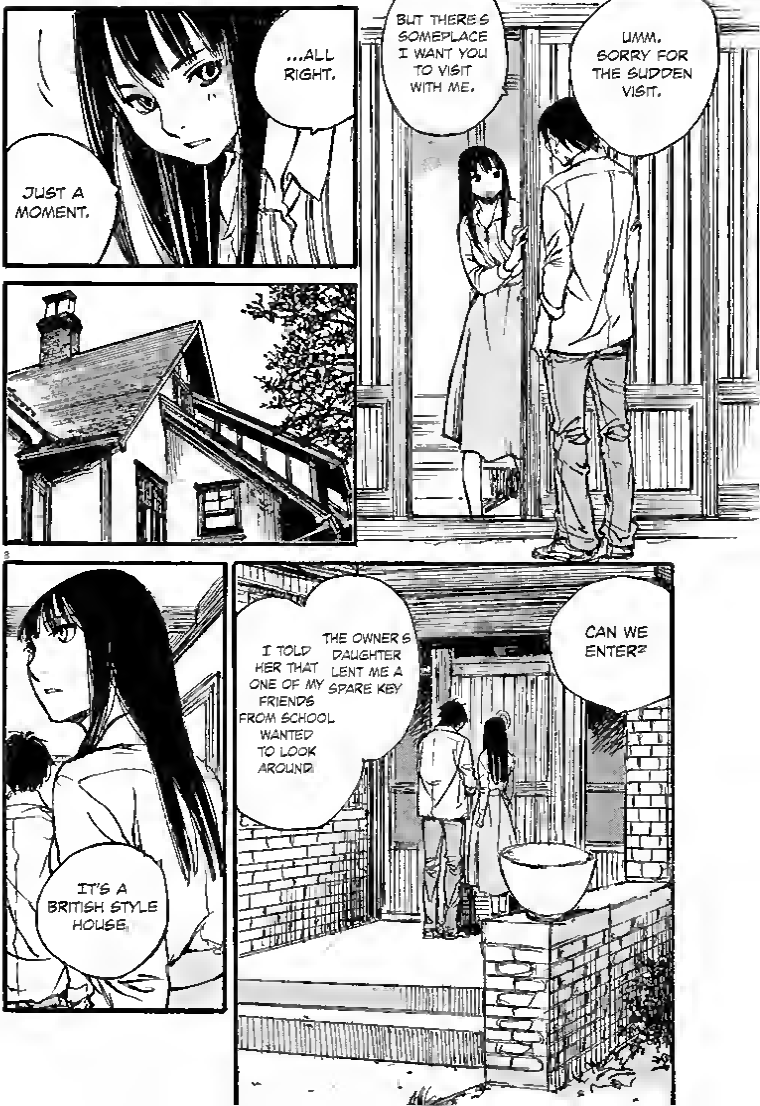
It could be that...
But Ms. Maki doesn't seem to like the house.
Even if I get its message to her,
it won't actually help her at all.
But on the other hand,
I do want to hear what it has to say.

WHOA, THIS IS BIG.
IT'S FROM HOME?
WONDER WHAT IT IS.
WAIT, IS THIS A DRAFTING BOARD?
WHY WOULD THEY..?
Touya, I'm sending you a drafting board.

We never told you, but he used to study architecture when he was a student.
But he gave up on it.
I don't know why he did,
but he used to tell me that he didn't have the talent for it.
This is the one your father used to use.
!
It's a little smaller than your grandfather's.
5
They might have had many differences, but your father always looked up to him as an architect.
And I'm sure he still does.
I don't know whether that's the real reason,
but maybe your grandfather had something to do with it.

And now that you have that same dream,
maybe looking at you brings up memories of your grandfather for him, and that's why he acts like he does.
I don't know quite how to put it, but you do remind us of your grandfather.
I hope that one day you'll be a fine architect in your own right.
Your mother.
カチ
P.S. I didn't ask anyone before I sent this. Maybe students these days don't use old fashioned tools
YEAH, THEY DON'T REALLY.

I hear your grandfather was a pretty famous architect in Yokohama.
Mr. Niwa's grandson?
I'm a huge fan.
I resented my mother a lot back then,
and I saw this house as a cage keeping me trapped in...
ガラッ

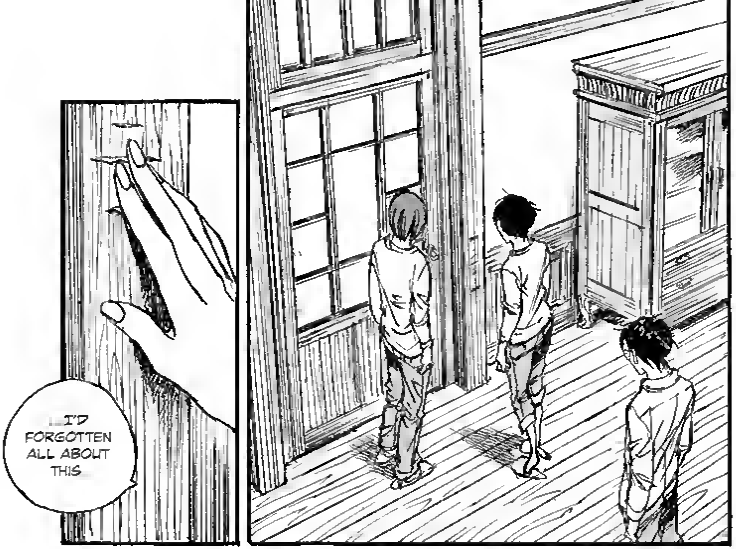

UMM, SORRY FOR THE SUDDEN VISIT.
BUT THERE'S SOMEPLACE I WANT YOU TO VISIT WITH ME.
...ALL RIGHT.
JUST A MOMENT.
CAN WE ENTER?
THE OWNER'S DAUGHTER LENT ME A SPARE KEY
I TOLD HER THAT ONE OF MY FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL WANTED TO LOOK AROUND.
IT'S A BRITISH STYLE HOUSE.

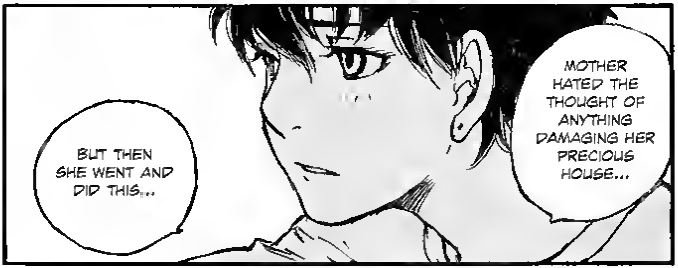
OKAY THEN... YOU READY?
YES.
YOU'RE RIGHT I DID NOTICE THE SMELL OF FLOWERS SINCE I WALKED IN.
I SAW A ROSE GARDEN WHEN I TOUCHED THE WALL TO THIS ROOM FROM THE OUTSIDE
I THINK IT'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING IN HERE.

YOU'RE TWO WHOLE CENTI-METERS TALLER THAN LAST MONTH.
I WANT TO BE AN IMPORTANT PROFESSOR LIKE YOU WHEN I GROW UP, MAMA.
YOU'LL BE GROWN UP IN NO TIME.
ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU GROW UP HEALTHY, HONEY.

.....
DID THAT TELL YOU ANYTHING?
ガタッ
YEAH... THIS PILLAR HERE ..

THEY RE PRETTY AVERAGE MARKS,
BUT THIS ACTUALLY MEANS MORE THAN YOU KNOW
THESE GROOVES ARE FROM MEASURING A GIRL'S HEIGHT...
YES, BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?


...I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THIS.


MOTHER HATED THE THOUGHT OF ANYTHING DAMAGING HER PRECIOUS HOUSE...
BUT THEN SHE WENT AND DID THIS...

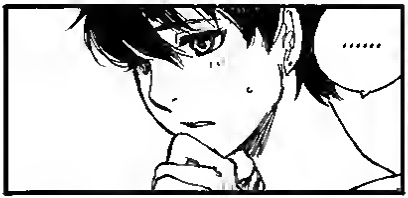
I WENT THROUGH THE THINGS SHE'D LEFT BEHIND A WHILE AGO.
ONE OF THEM WAS A BOOK THAT I'D TRANSLATED...

I WAS SO STUBBORN. I'VE BEEN SO STUBBORN ALL THIS TIME.
IT'S TOO LATE TO REGRET IT NOW...
I JUST WISH WE COULD HAVE SPENT THE TIME WE HAD LEFT TOGETHER IN THIS HOUSE...
.....
IF ONLY I COULD KEEP THIS HOUSE STANDING FOR HER...
14
YOU CAN DO THAT.
WHAT?
WHAT?
I'VE ONLY EVER READ ABOUT IT...

THIS HOUSE HAS A LARGE GARDEN ATTACHED, SO IT'LL PROBABLY BE POSSIBLE.
BUT YOU CAN SELL OFF A PORTION OF THE LAND, AND USE THE PROCEEDS TO COVER THE INHERITANCE TAX.

IN THAT CASE, PART OF THE HOUSE MIGHT HAVE TO GO AS WELL...
YOU MIGHT EVEN HAVE TO SELL OFF HALF OR MORE OF THE LAND

15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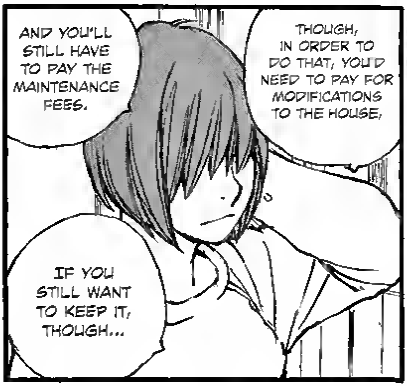
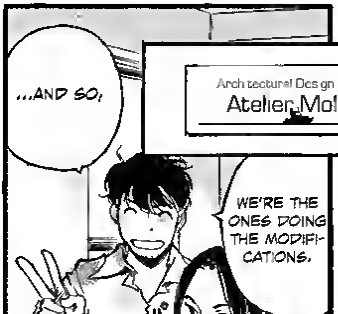
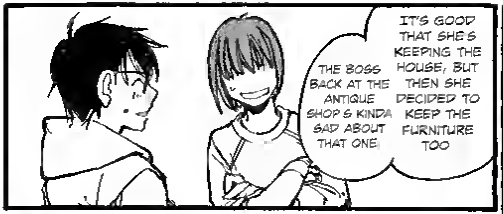

AND YOU'LL STILL HAVE TO PAY THE MAINTENANCE FEES.
THOUGH, IN ORDER TO DO THAT, YOU'D NEED TO PAY FOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOUSE,
IF YOU STILL WANT TO KEEP IT, THOUGH...

BUT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP MOST OF IT.

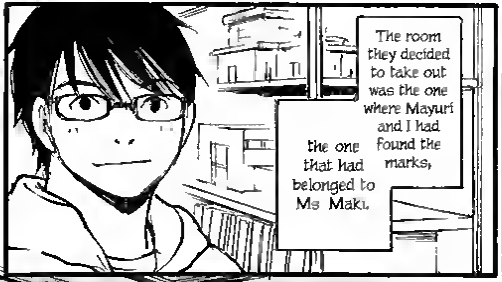
MR. SAKAMOTO SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED SINCE HE WAS ORIGINALLY THE POINT OF CONTACT, BUT THANKFULLY HE STEPPED BACK AND LET US DO IT.
HE SAYS HE'S NOT CONCERNED WITH LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS...

Though to be honest we growled a bit too

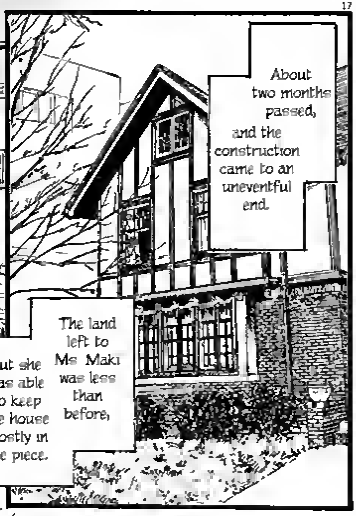

...AND SO,
Architectural Design Firm
Atelier Molle
WE'RE THE ONES DOING THE MODIFICATIONS.
AND HERE I WAS THINKING BOTH OF YOU WERE JUST BEING SLACKERS...


IT'S GOOD THAT SHE'S KEEPING THE HOUSE, BUT THEN SHE DECIDED TO KEEP THE FURNITURE TOO
THE BOSS BACK AT THE ANTIQUE SHOP'S KINDA SAD ABOUT THAT ONE.

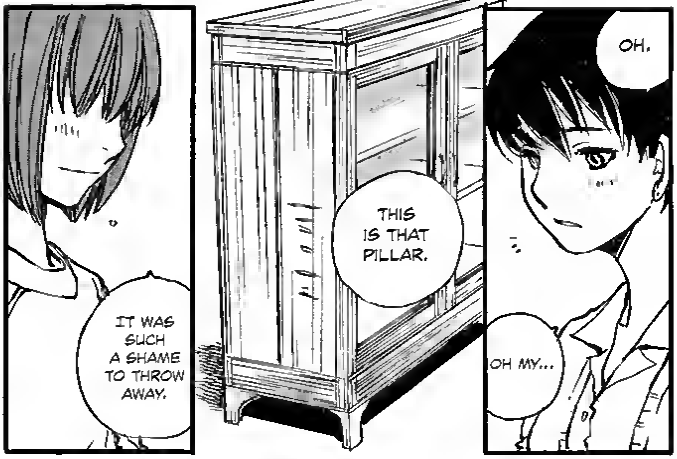
NAH. I JUST PRESENTED THE OPTIONS SHE'D ALREADY MADE UP HER MIND.
AND THAT WAS THANKS TO THOSE MARKS YOU FOUND, NIWA.


The room they decided to take out was the one where Mayuri and I had found the marks,
the one that had belonged to Ms. Maki.

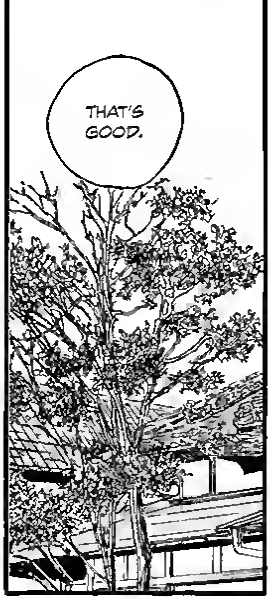
THANK YOU SO MUCH.


About two months passed, and the construction came to an uneventful end.
The land left to Ms. Maki was less than before,
but she was able to keep the house mostly in one piece.

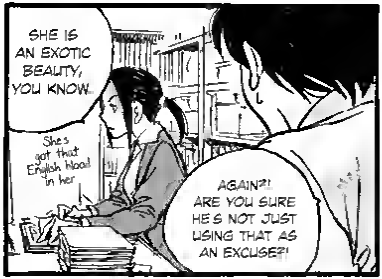
ガチャ
HELLO!
I'LL KEEP THIS HOUSE FROM NOW ON.
IF SOMETHING ELSE COMES UP, I'LL BE SURE TO LET YOU KNOW.
HMM? WHERE'S MIKI?
HE SAID HE'D BE A LITTLE LATE.
OH?
A PRESENT FOR MS. MAKI.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S NO ANTIQUE ENGLISH FURNITURE, BUT...
OH, MY, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS...
IT'S A BOOKCASE WE MADE FROM SOME OF THE HOUSE MATERIAL TAKEN OFF DURING CONSTRUCTION
ガッ


IT WAS SUCH A SHAME TO THROW AWAY.
THIS IS THAT PILLAR.
OH.
OH MY...

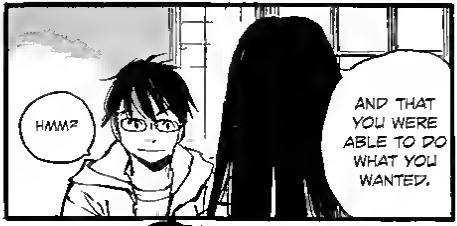
HEY, WHERE'S MIKI?
...THANK YOU.


THAT'S GOOD.

GONE TO VISIT MS. MAKI.
SAID HE HAD SOME FURNITURE TO FIX.


SHE IS AN EXOTIC BEAUTY, YOU KNOW.
She's got that English blood in her.
AGAIN?! ARE YOU SURE HE'S NOT JUST USING THAT AS AN EXCUSE?!

20


HMM?
AND THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO DO WHAT YOU WANTED.

I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO HELP.

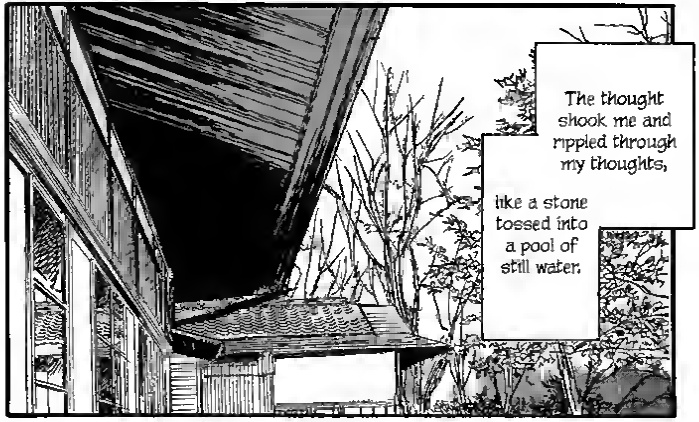
TO HELP PEOPLE, NOT HOUSES

I THINK THAT THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON
ARE LEFT IN THE THINGS THEY LEAVE BEHIND.
OH...
I GUESS?
OF COURSE
Those who've passed on...
OH. RIGHT.
21
ONE OF MY NEIGHBORS CAME BY THIS MORNING WITH A LOAF OF FRESH BAKED BREAD. JUST A MINUTE.

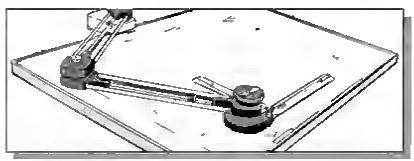
She was talking about my grandfather.
I couldn't shake the feeling.

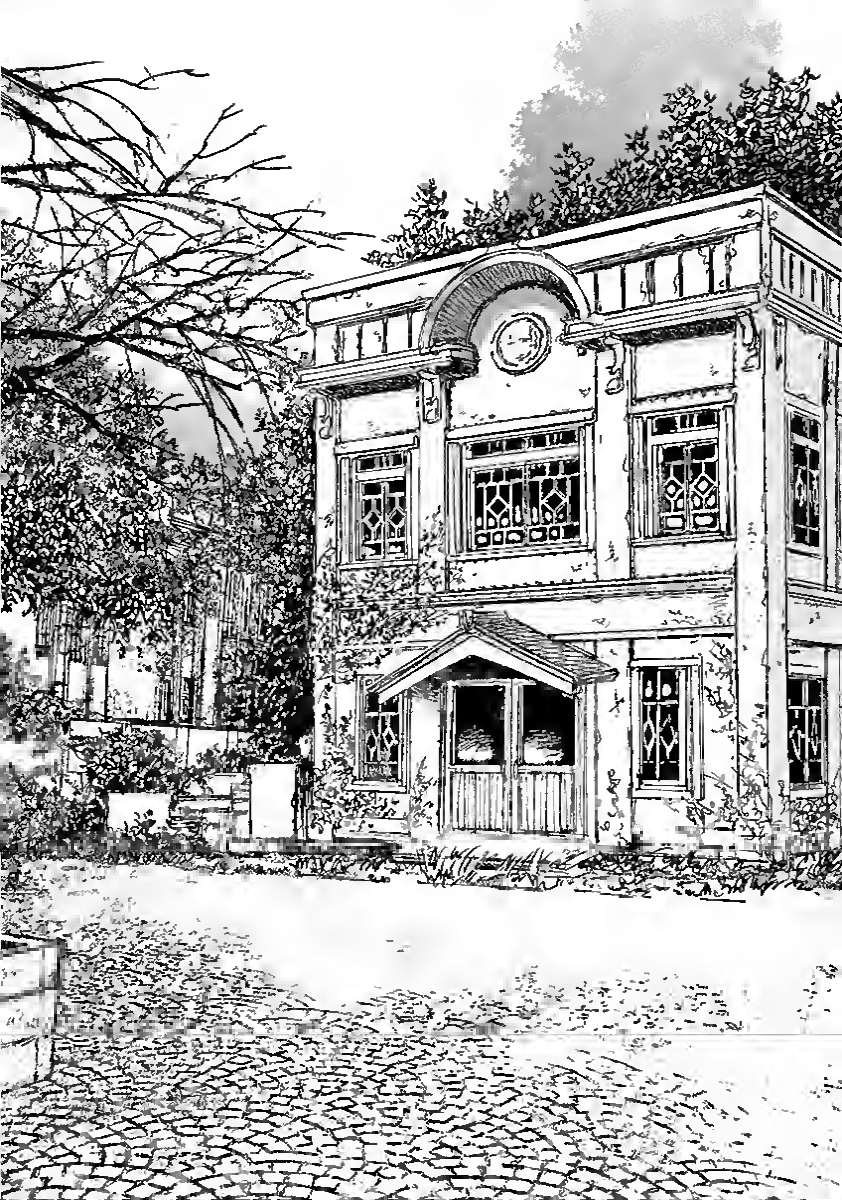
Come to think of it... To him, she must have seemed like the shade of someone he'd loved.

22


The thought shook me and rippled through my thoughts,
like a stone tossed into a pool of still water.

FILE 11: The Architecture Students #1





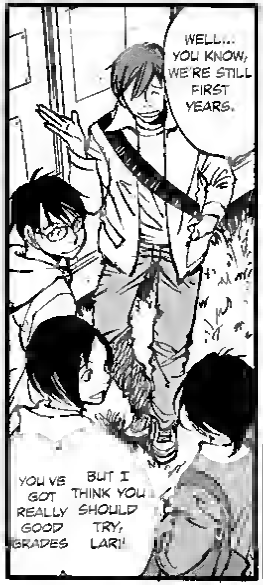
SHIT...
...KABA-SHIMA...
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
BUT EVEN THEN...
WE SHOULD KEEP THIS A SECRET.
NOBODY CAN EVER KNOW THIS HAPPENED.
GOT IT?

FIRST PRIZE IS A FULL YEAR OF TUITION?!

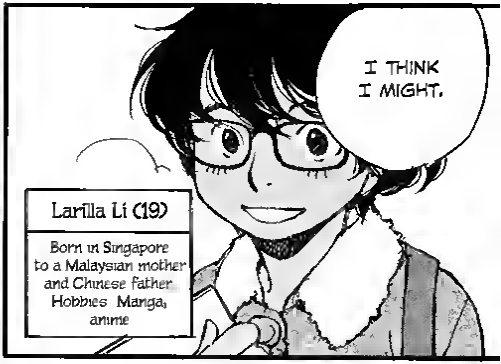
5

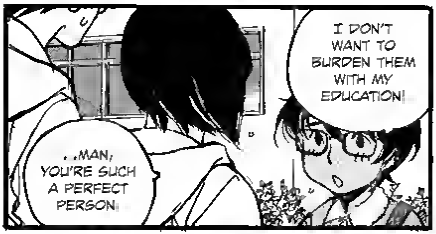
Yokohama Gakuin University Student Competition
Library for the Department of Science and Engineering
AND IT'S OPEN TO ALL YEARS...

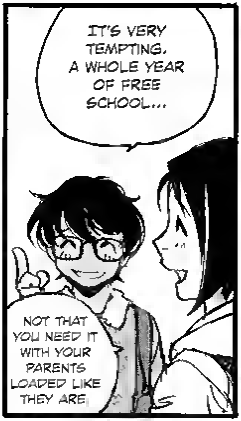
WE HAVE A LIBRARY?
IT SAYS THEY'RE REBUILDING THE OLD LIBRARY..
WAIT, THAT WAS A LIBRARY!
ISN'T IT PRACTICALLY PART OF THE FOREST NOW? IT WAS OVER GROWN WITH VINES.
IT'S IN THE CORNER OF THE WEST BLOCK.
BUT NOBODY USES IT.
IT WAS BUILT BEFORE THE WAR
I HEAR SOMEONE DIED THERE A LONG TIME AGO.
SO IT'S HAUNTED, HUH.
I WISH I COULD GO IN AND LOOK AROUND BEFORE THEY TEAR IT DOWN..
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL LET YOU IN.


WELL... YOU KNOW, WE'RE STILL FIRST YEARS.
YOU'VE GOT REALLY GOOD GRADES
BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY, LARI!

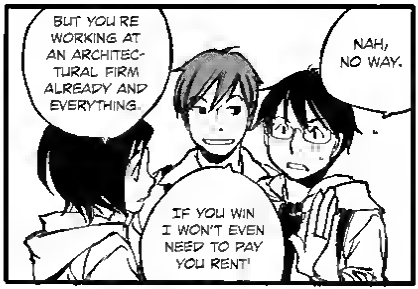
ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE IT A TRY?
OH, LARI.


I THINK I MIGHT.
Larilla Li (19)
Born in Singapore to a Malaysian mother and Chinese father
Hobbies: Manga, anime


I DON'T WANT TO BURDEN THEM WITH MY EDUCATION!
...MAN, YOU'RE SUCH A PERFECT PERSON.

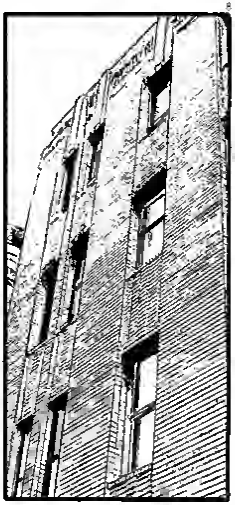

IT'S VERY TEMPTING. A WHOLE YEAR OF FREE SCHOOL...
NOT THAT YOU NEED IT WITH YOUR PARENTS LOADED LIKE THEY ARE.

TOUYA, YOU SHOULD ENTER TOO.


BUT YOU'RE WORKING AT AN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM ALREADY AND EVERYTHING.
NAH, NO WAY.
IF YOU WIN I WON'T EVEN NEED TO PAY YOU RENT!

I SHOULD DEFINITELY BE TAKING IT EASY AND LEECHING OFF MY PARENTS WHILE I CAN. MORE LIKE IT
YOU'RE THE SON OF AN ARCHITECT TOO. YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BE ENTERING

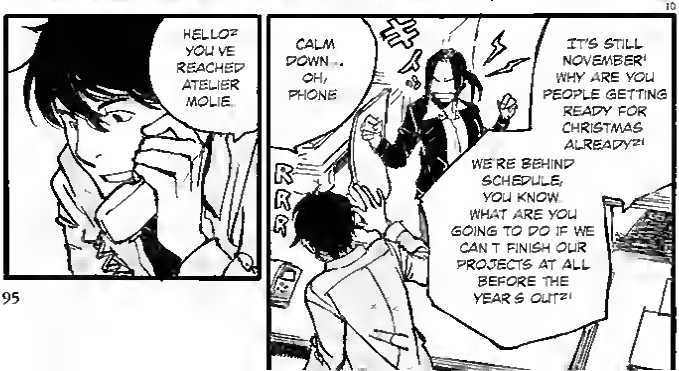
SOUNDS FUN.
HMM... A DESIGN COMPETITION, HUH



SKILLS ARE ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT TALENT DOESN'T NEED TO BE LEARNED.
YOU'RE A STUDENT, YOU KNOW.
IT SOUNDS FUN, BUT I'M STILL IN MY FIRST YEAR. I DON'T HAVE ANY SKILLS.
ME? NO...
YOU'RE THINKING OF ENTERING?
I DON'T KNOW...
WHY NOT THINK OF IT AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE?
What is that?
NIWA, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON SOME THAT FOR A WHILE. LOOKS PRETTY DETAILED.
OH, I KINDA GOT SUCKED INTO IT...
WE COULD GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE AT LEAST.

I THOUGHT HAVING A LITTLE STORY GOING ON WOULD MAKE IT MORE INTERESTING ..
DAD CAME HOME WITH CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, AND HIS CHILDREN ARE WELCOMING HIM HOME

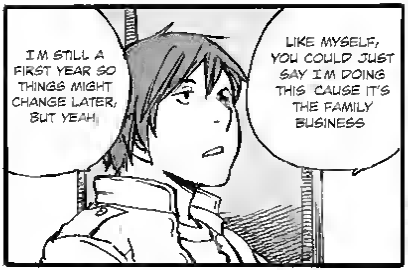
1/50
AND I USED A BIT OF PUTTY ON A PREISER 1/50 FIGURE TO MAKE SANTA.
Look look
SANTA ISN'T EVEN GER-MAN!!
SAVE THE ART FOR LATER AND FINISH THE MODEL!
YES'M....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WOW, THIS IS COOL.
It's like Tenkoku Make models


HELLO? YOU'VE REACHED ATELIER MOLIE
CALM DOWN... OH, PHONE
RRR
IT'S STILL NOVEMBER! WHY ARE YOU PEOPLE GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS ALREADY?!
WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE, YOU KNOW. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF WE CAN'T FINISH OUR PROJECTS AT ALL BEFORE THE YEAR'S OUT?!

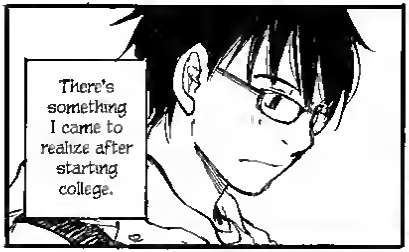
MR. MATSUMOTO?
WHAT?
THE WAKE IS TOMORROW?
OKAY. THANKS FOR TELLING ME.
YEAH... AN ARCHITECT WHO I USED TO WORK WITH AT ANOTHER FIRM. HE HELPED ME OUT A LOT.
HE RETIRED YEARS AGO THE OLD MAN B...
...DID SOMEONE YOU KNOW PASS AWAY?

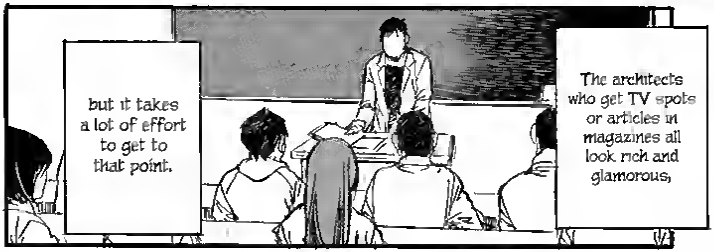
YOUR MIND ISN'T AS MADE UP AS YOU PRETENDED, HUH?
ぽん
OH, SAKAMOTO.
.....
学生コンペ

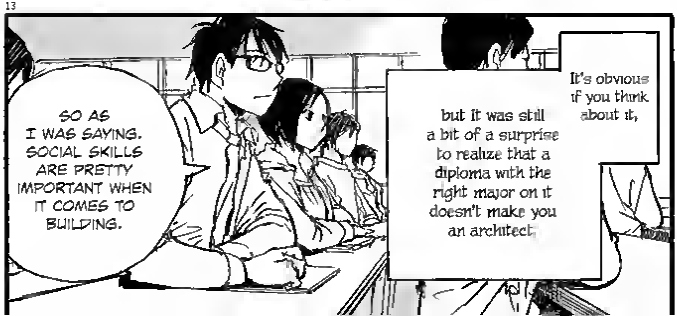
LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU LOSE ANYTHING BY ENTERING. WHY NOT GIVE IT A SHOT?
NO, I WAS JUST
PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU'LL DO PRETTY WELL.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF TALENT FOR BUILDINGS
AND I'M NOT SAYING THIS JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR GRANDPA.

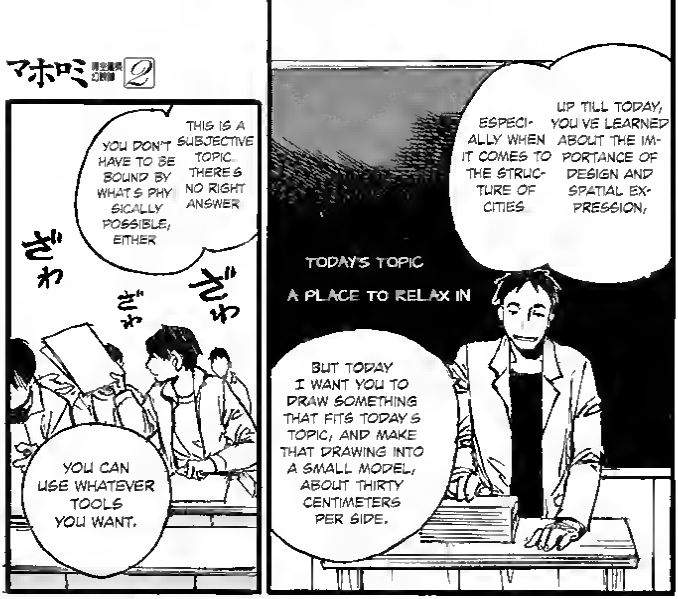

I'M STILL A FIRST YEAR SO THINGS MIGHT CHANGE LATER, BUT YEAH.
LIKE MYSELF, YOU COULD JUST SAY I'M DOING THIS 'CAUSE IT'S THE FAMILY BUSINESS

BESIDES, YOU LIKE BUILDINGS, RIGHT?
NOT EVERY-ONE IN THE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT IS NECESSARILY AIMING TO BE AN ARCHITECT, BUT YOU ARE.


There's something I came to realize after starting college.

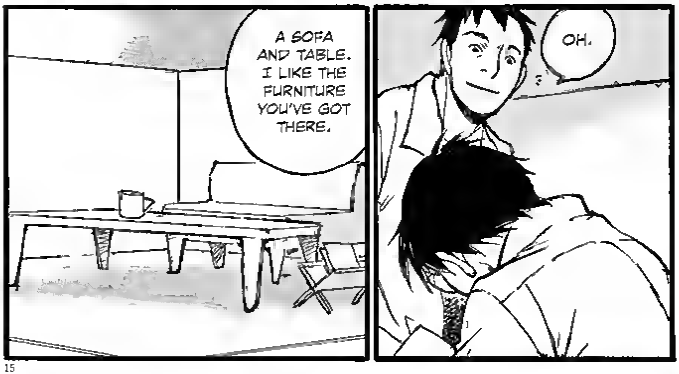

but it takes a lot of effort to get to that point.
The architects who get TV spots or articles in magazines all look rich and glamorous,


SO AS I WAS SAYING. SOCIAL SKILLS ARE PRETTY IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING.
but it was still a bit of a surprise to realize that a diploma with the right major on it doesn't make you an architect.
It's obvious if you think about it,

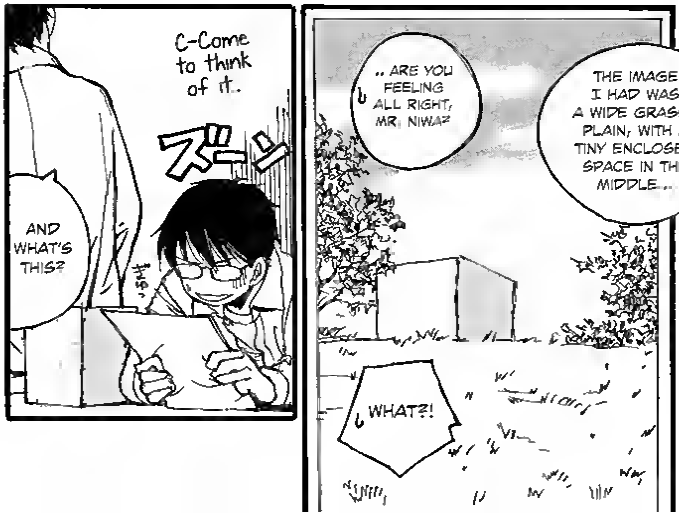

UP TILL TODAY, YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF DESIGN AND SPATIAL EXPRESSION,
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE STRUCTURE OF CITIES
TODAY'S TOPIC
A PLACE TO RELAX IN
BUT TODAY I WANT YOU TO DRAW SOMETHING THAT FITS TODAY'S TOPIC, AND MAKE THAT DRAWING INTO A SMALL MODEL, ABOUT THIRTY CENTIMETERS PER SIDE.
THIS IS A SUBJECTIVE TOPIC. THERE'S NO RIGHT ANSWER
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BOUND BY WHAT'S PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE, EITHER
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
YOU CAN USE WHATEVER TOOLS YOU WANT.

UGH, I'M TERRIBLE AT DRAWING.
SAME, EXCEPT AT MODEL MAKING
IF YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE DRAWING, YOU CAN MAKE A COLLAGE
JUST MAKE SURE TO KEEP IT TO SOMETHING YOU CAN FINISH BEFORE THE END OF TODAY'S SESSION.
I also learned that not all our lessons are just about structural theory and method.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF.
THAT'S QUITE AN IMPRESSIONIST PROJECT YOU'VE GOT GOING THERE, MR. SAKAMOTO.


A SOFA AND TABLE. I LIKE THE FURNITURE YOU'VE GOT THERE.
OH.

15

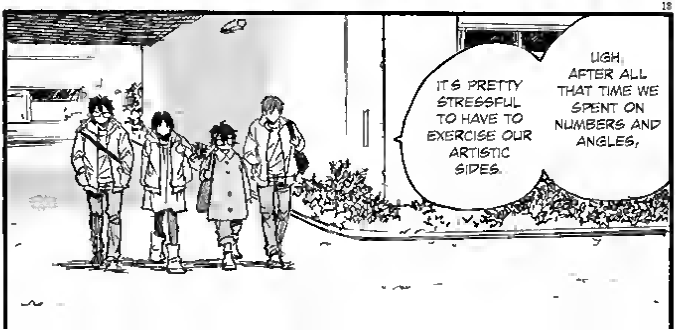

C-Come to think of it..
ズーン
AND WHAT'S THIS?
.. ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT, MR. NIWA?
THE IMAGE I HAD WAS A WIDE GRASSY PLAIN, WITH A TINY ENCLOSED SPACE IN THE MIDDLE...
WHAT?!

THE IDEA IS TO BE CLOSE TO THE LOOKING CLOUDS, DOWN UPON THE BASE MORTALS FAR BELOW.
Tsuwabuki Tatsumi (19)
Hobby: Skyscraper Design
I SUPPOSE IT'S A TOWER OF SOME SORT.
THE DOTS AT THE BOTTOM ARE VILLAGES.
16
I wanted to draw something like Brueghel's—
The Tower of Babel?
WHOA, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL PRETTY BOY—
He's the one the Professor should be worried about
OKAY, WRAP IT UP, EVERYONE.
WE HAD QUITE THE VARIETY,
BUT I THINK THE BEST WAS MS. LIS
oh my god
WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING YOUR WORK TO EVERY-ONE?
パチパチ

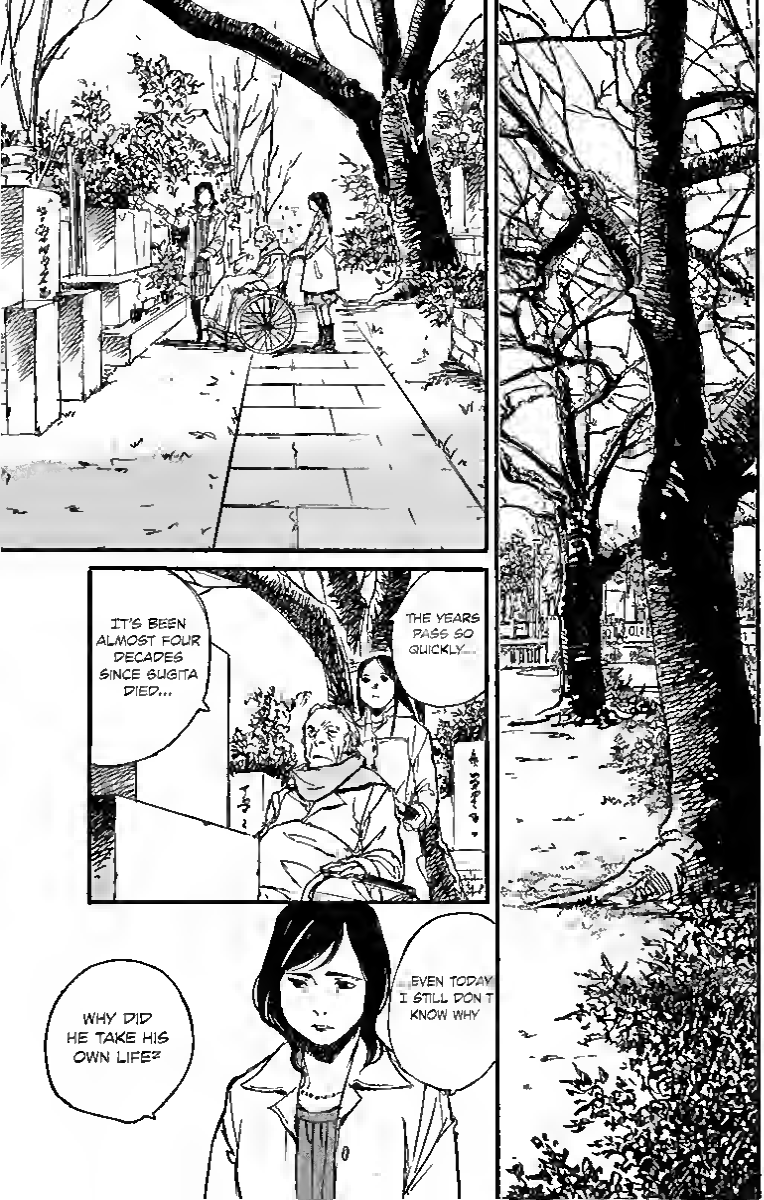
WOW, IT'S SO PRETTY!
THIS IS WHAT WOULD PUT ME AT EASE.
THE ESTATE BACK HOME HAS A GARDEN WITH FIVE HUNDRED ROSE BUSHES, AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF IT WOULD BE SO NICE TO HAVE A TEA CHAMBER THERE
FIVE HUN-DRED...?
A TEA CEREMONY CHAMBER, SURROUNDED BY ROSES.
MY DREAM IS TO SIP TEA IN SUCH A ROOM, SURROUNDED BY ROSES, READING THE ROSE OF VERSAILLES.
ざわ ざわ

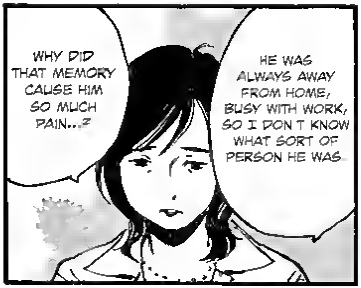
17

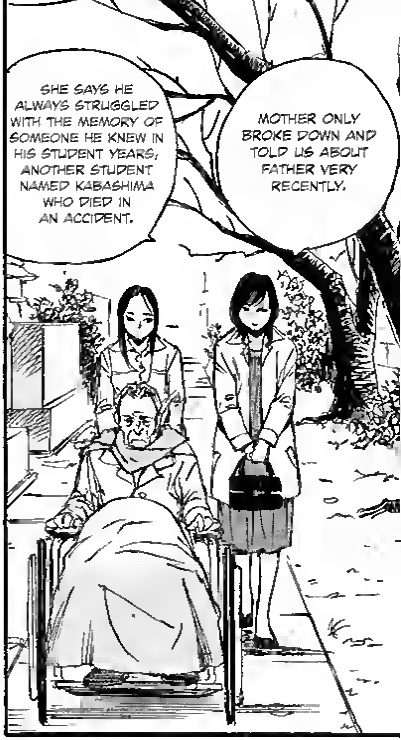
Aaaah
THAT KINDA LEFT ME WORRIED ABOUT MY OWN MENTAL STATE...
I'LL TELL YOU IF YOU TELL ME WHAT YOURS IS!
MAN, AKIRA, WHAT'S THIS EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE?
OH, SORRY
WOULD YOU GET OUT OF THE WAY?
WHAT A JERK! HE DOESN'T DESERVE HIS GOOD LOOKS.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HUH?
OH...
TOUYA, YOU'RE PRETTY NORMAL.
THAT JUST MAKES ME MORE WORRIED


IT'S PRETTY STRESSFUL TO HAVE TO EXERCISE OUR ARTISTIC SIDES.
UGH. AFTER ALL THAT TIME WE SPENT ON NUMBERS AND ANGLES,

LARI, WHY'D YOU COME TO JAPAN?
IT'S FINE, I CAN GO INTO ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY ANYWAY
YEAH... I HEAR THAT IT'S MORE FOCUSED ON THE ART SIDE OVER-SEAS
AND DESIGN THEORY'S GONNA BE MORE IMPORTANT GOING FORWARD ANYWAY.
THE JAPANESE APPROACH ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION VERY STRANGELY...
18
AFTER I GRADUATE, I PLAN TO STUDY IN EUROPE.
BECAUSE JAPAN IS SUCH AN INTERESTING COUNTRY.
I KNOW WHAT I WANT.
I'LL PUT EVERYTHING I HAVE INTO WORKING HARD,
AND BECOME A GREAT ARCHITECT.
THEN I'LL GO BACK HOME AND BUILD THE CASTLE OF CAGLIOSTRO, FROM LUPIN III.
WHAT?
That last part's a little weird.

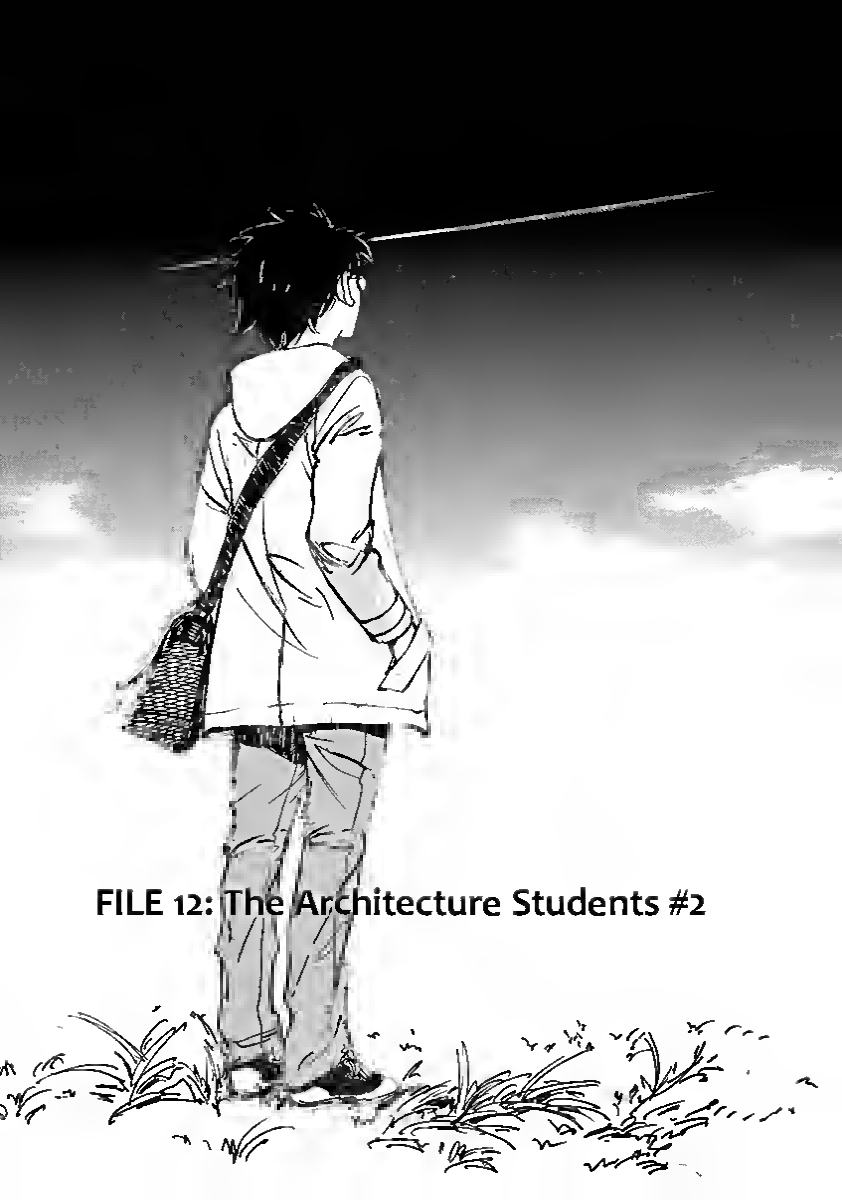

IT'S BEEN ALMOST FOUR DECADES SINCE SUGITA DIED...
THE YEARS PASS SO QUICKLY...
...EVEN TODAY I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY
WHY DID HE TAKE HIS OWN LIFE?


WHY DID THAT MEMORY CAUSE HIM SO MUCH PAIN...?
HE WAS ALWAYS AWAY FROM HOME, BUSY WITH WORK, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT SORT OF PERSON HE WAS.

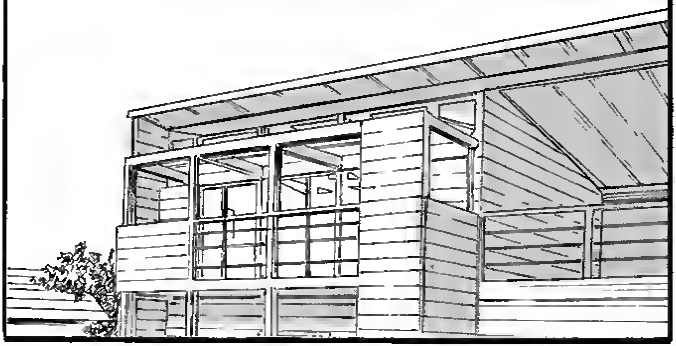

SHE SAYS HE ALWAYS STRUGGLED WITH THE MEMORY OF SOMEONE HE KNEW IN HIS STUDENT YEARS, ANOTHER STUDENT NAMED KABASHIMA WHO DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.
MOTHER ONLY BROKE DOWN AND TOLD US ABOUT FATHER VERY RECENTLY.

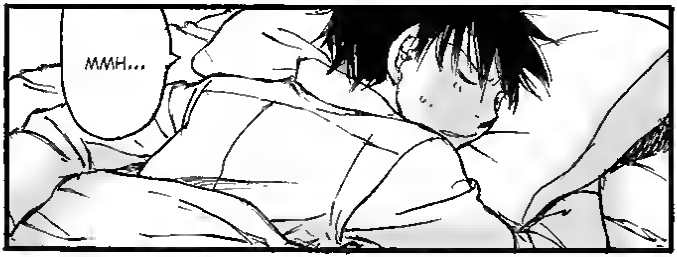
..I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION...
IT'S CLEAR KABASHIMA'S DEATH MUST HAVE IMPACTED SUGITA GREATLY, BUT BEYOND THAT...

NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
MATSUMOTO'S DEAD, TOO.



FILE 12: The Architecture Students #2

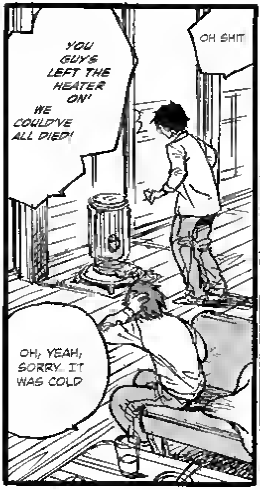



MMH...

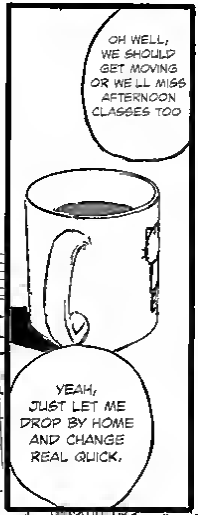
WAIT, I FELL ASLEEP WITHOUT CHANG-ING—
OWW, MY NECK

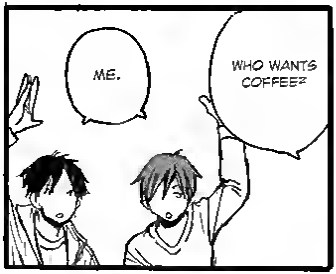
I WAS UP ALL NIGHT PLAYING GAMES...
Where are my glasses
OH, RIGHT.

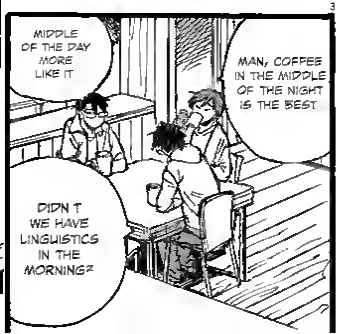
GAH!


YOU GUYS LEFT THE HEATER ON! WE COULD'VE ALL DIED!
OH SHIT
OH, YEAH, SORRY. IT WAS COLD

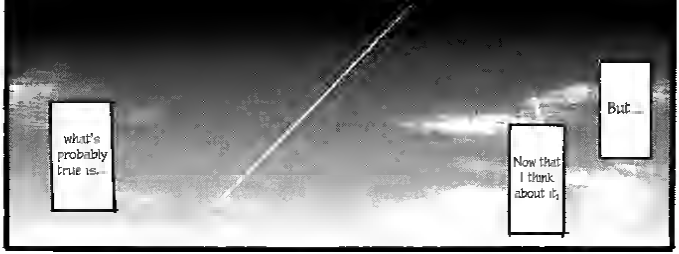
HEY, GET UP. IT'S ALREADY NOON.
HRRGH...


OH WELL, WE SHOULD GET MOVING OR WE'LL MISS AFTERNOON CLASSES TOO
YEAH, JUST LET ME DROP BY HOME AND CHANGE REAL QUICK.


WHO WANTS COFFEE?
ME.


MAN, COFFEE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IS THE BEST.
MIDDLE OF THE DAY MORE LIKE IT
DIDN'T WE HAVE LINGUISTICS IN THE MORNING?

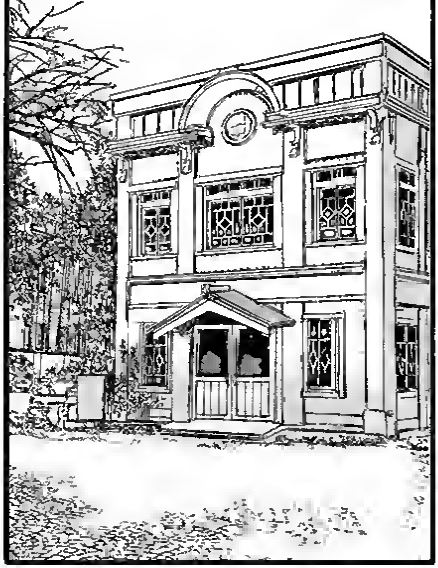
I'LL PUT EVERYTHING I HAVE INTO WORKING HARD.
AND BECOME A GREAT ARCHITECT.
MAYBE THIS YEAR IS THE ONLY CHANCE I'LL HAVE TO HAVE FUN LIKE THIS
THINGS'LL PROBABLY PICK UP NEXT YEAR.
I thought it would be nice to be an architect.
I guess it was just a daydream at first
But now, it's time to start thinking seriously about my future
What does it mean to be one, anyway?
Good grades don't equal becoming an architect


what's probably true is...
Now that I think about it,
But...

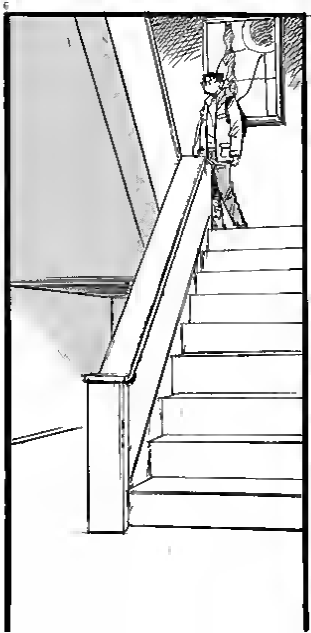
if I don't study hard to become an architect,
For me, at least,

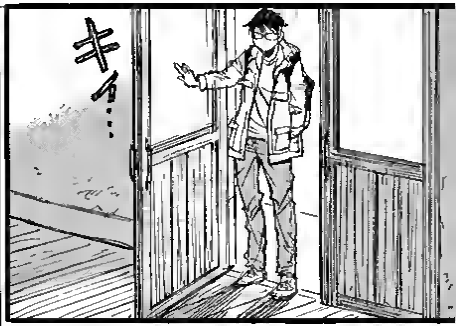
I won't be able to get by as anything else

COULD I GET INTO THE OLD SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING LIBRARY?
EXCUSE ME.
Student Affairs



YES, IT'S OPEN UNTIL FIVE IN THE AFTERNOON TODAY TO LET PEOPLE LOOK AROUND AND DECIDE IF THEY WANT TO ENTER THE CONTEST.

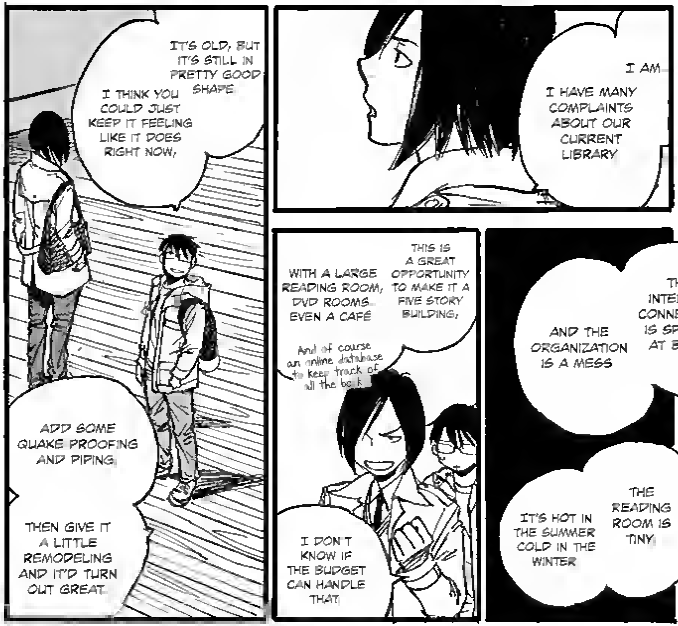



キィ…

HMM. IT'S IN BETTER CONDITION THAN I EXPECTED.

It's Mr. Babel.
YOU'RE A FIRST YEAR TOO, RIGHT?
MMM...
OH,
UMM..
YOU'RE ENTERING THE CONTEST TOO, THEN,
NIWA?
THE NAME'S TSUWABUKI!

YOU?
UMM, I ACTUALLY HAVEN'T DECIDED YET


IT'S OLD, BUT IT'S STILL IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE.
I THINK YOU COULD JUST KEEP IT FEELING LIKE IT DOES RIGHT NOW.
ADD SOME QUAKE PROOFING AND PIPING.
THEN GIVE IT A LITTLE REMODELING AND IT'D TURN OUT GREAT.
I AM.
I HAVE MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT OUR CURRENT LIBRARY
THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT A FIVE STORY BUILDING.
WITH A LARGE READING ROOM, DVD ROOMS, EVEN A CAFÉ
And of course an online database to keep track of all the books!
I DON'T KNOW IF THE BUDGET CAN HANDLE THAT!
THE INTERNET CONNECTION IS SPOTTY AT BEST.
AND THE ORGANIZATION IS A MESS
THE READING ROOM IS TINY.
IT'S HOT IN THE SUMMER COLD IN THE WINTER

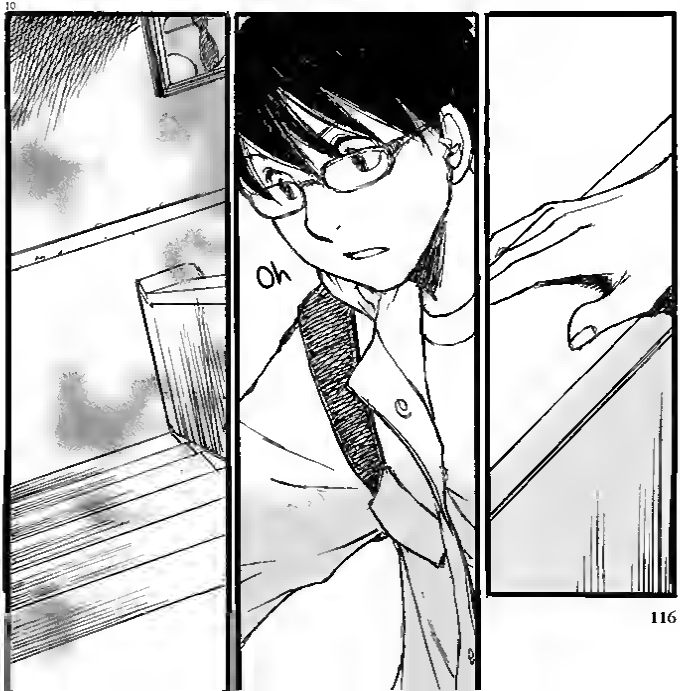
"FEELING?" WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
DON'T TELL ME YOU PRESCRIBE TO THAT OLD-FASHIONED SPIRITUAL MUMBO JUMBO TOO.

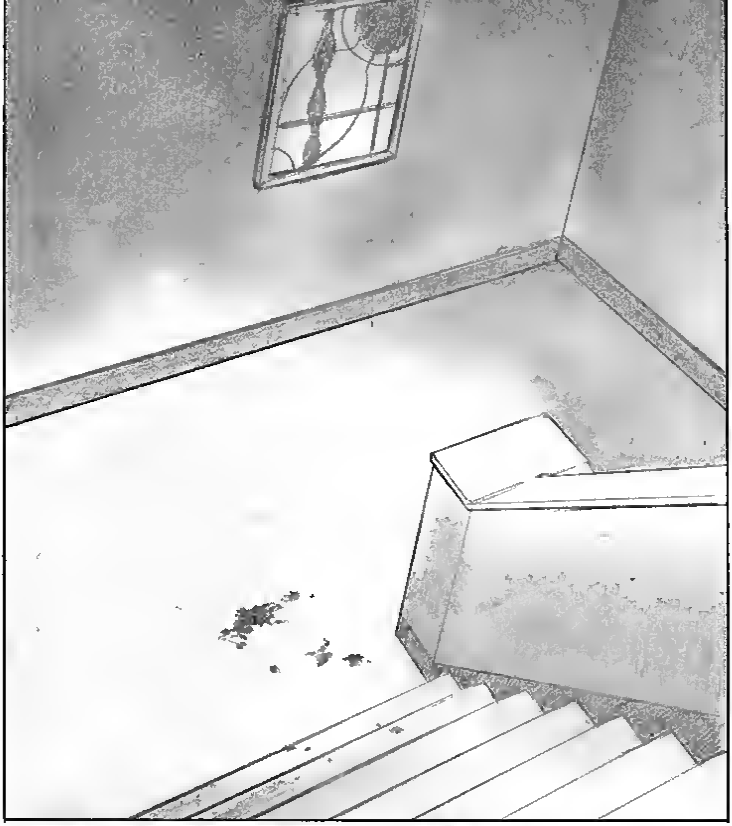
OLD BUILDINGS ARE DANGEROUS.
EARTHQUAKE PROOFING THEM TENDS TO BE INORDINATELY EXPENSIVE COMPARED TO HOW EFFECTIVE IT IS
JAPAN HAS GOTTEN THIS FAR BY TURNING ITS BACK ON THE OUTDATED THINGS OF THE PAST
UHH, NOT REALLY?
BUT I DO THINK THAT OLD THINGS HAVE AN APPEAL OF THEIR OWN...
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT.
EFFICIENCY ISN'T EVERYTHING.
EVEN CENTURY OLD BUILDINGS ARE NECESSARY IN SOCIETY
ISN'T SCRAP AND BUILD ITSELF CONSIDERED AN OUTDATED VIEWPOINT THESE DAYS?
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DISCUSS SUCH THINGS WITH YOU.
BUILDINGS HAVE TO COME FORWARD TO MATCH THE TIMES.

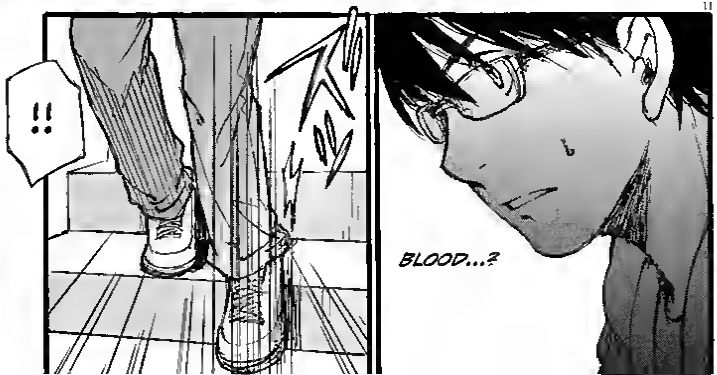
WELL, SAME HERE!

THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM.
THE HELL. WHAT A JERK.
HE'S THE ONE WHO STARTED IT.

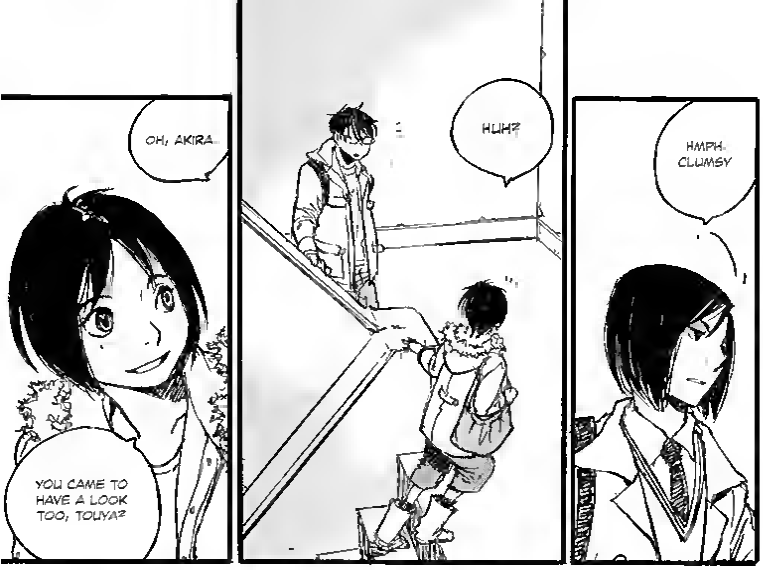
10


Oh

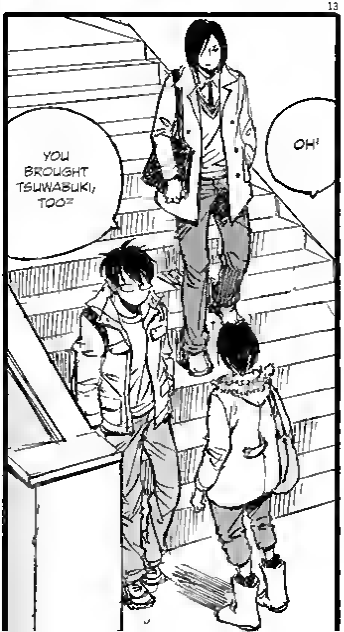



!!
BLOOD...?

GUH!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU ALMOST FELL.
OH...
12
S-SORRY, I SUDDENLY FELT DIZZY FOR SOME REASON
THANKS...

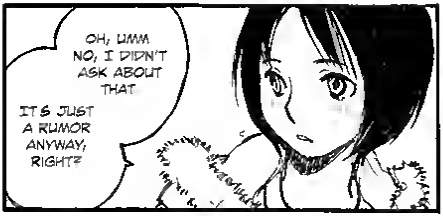

OH, AKIRA...
YOU CAME TO HAVE A LOOK TOO, TOUYA?
HUH?
HMPH. CLUMSY
13

NO,
WE DIDN'T COME TOGETHER...


OH!
YOU BROUGHT TSUWABUKI, TOO?

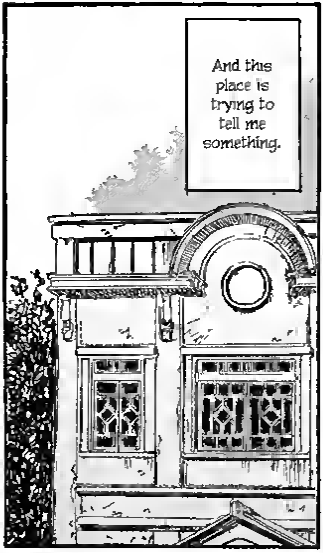
WHAT WERE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
つんつん
NOTHING
HE WAS HERE FIRST.
HE'S GONNA ENTER THE CONTEST.
14
REALLY?
YUP. I'LL ADMIT HE'S A LITTLE STRANGE, THOUGH.
HE WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS ME
WE WERE IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL TOGETHER.
OH, OKAY.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE REALLY TALKED. HE'S KINDA WEIRD

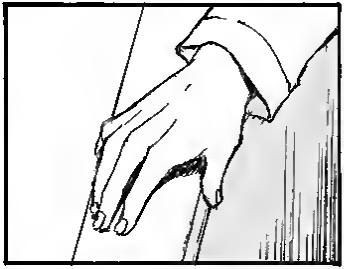
THE OTHER GIRLS ALL LIKED HIM FOR HIS LOOKS, BUT I DIDN'T REALLY TALK WITH HIM MUCH.
SOME PEOPLE REALLY DIDN'T LIKE HIS PERSONALITY.
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S REALLY A BAD PERSON.
I CAN SEE THAT.
HE COULD BARELY OPEN HIS MOUTH WITHOUT MAKING SOMEONE MAD.
HUH.. REALLY, NOW.
WELL, HE DID SAVE ME FROM THAT FALL.
15
I ASKED PROFESSOR TAKAHASHI ABOUT THIS PLACE YESTERDAY.
IT WAS BUILT IN 1931 BY AN AMERICAN ARCHITECT.
THE FAÇADE WAS DESTROYED IN A BOMBING RUN DURING THE WAR, AND THE TEMPORARY ROOF THEY PUT OVER THE ENTRANCE IS STILL THERE.
BEFORE THEN THERE WAS A PORCH OUTSIDE, AND EVEN A PEDIMENT ON TOP!
Oh, just imagining it makes my heart race
WELL, SHE'S CERTAINLY HAPPY.


OH, UMM NO, I DIDN'T ASK ABOUT THAT
IT'S JUST A RUMOR ANYWAY, RIGHT?

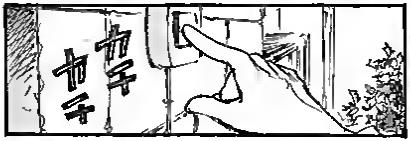
HEY, AKIRA.
DID THE PROFESSOR SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE ACCIDENT THAT HAPPENED HERE?

AND BESIDES, EVEN IF IT'S TRUE IT WAS FOREVER AGO PROFESSOR TAKAHASHI MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW.


And this place is trying to tell me something.



No. The rumor is definitely true.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カタ
カタカタ
YUP, SHE'S SEWING RIGHT NOW

キィ
... I'M PRETTY SURE THIS DOORBELL WILL NEVER SERVE ITS PURPOSE
SHE CAN'T EVEN HEAR IT WITH THE SEWING MACHINE ON.

SHE LOOKS BUSY.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BOTHER HER RIGHT NOW?
カタカタ

OH,
カタカタ

SORRY, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU RINGING.
I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR WORK
SO YESTER DAY I SAW SOMETHING AGAIN
OH! ME TOO.
I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT
IT WAS A SMALL WESTERN STYLE BUILDING
PROBABLY THE SAME ONE, THEN.
IT'S MY SCHOOL'S OLD LIBRARY.
IT'S BEING REBUILT SOON.

THIS TIME IT'S A LITTLE COMPLICATED.
WELL,
I DON'T KNOW IF I WANT TO GET YOU INVOLVED IN THIS.
THEY'VE KEPT IT CLOSED ALL THIS TIME, AND NOW...
IF YOU NEED MY HELP AGAIN...
.....
IT'S FINE.
LET'S LISTEN TO WHAT THE BUILDING HAS TO SAY.
IT MIGHT JUST TELL US SOME SECRETS.

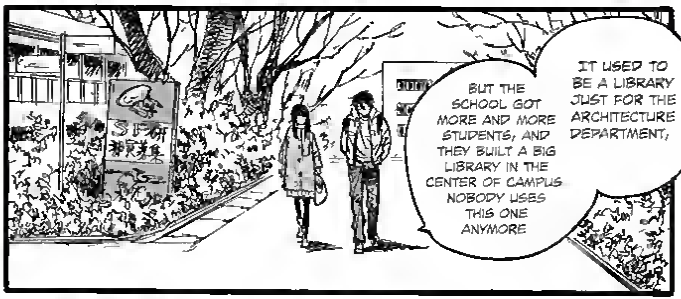
FILE 13: The Architecture Students #3

MAYURI?
CLASS ENDED LATE TODAY.
WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME LONG? SORRY.
NO, IT'S NOTHING.

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AT A COLLEGE
IT'S, WELL. I FEEL LIKE I DON'T QUITE BELONG HERE

WHAT? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE A STUDENT HERE, YOURSELF.
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE NEAR MY AGE, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, YES, BUT...
ALL THE GIRLS HERE ARE WEARING SUCH NICE CLOTHES.
AND HERE I AM IN MY GRANDMOTHER'S OLD COAT.

THAT'S ACTUALLY WAY MORE CHARMING!
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
REALLY?

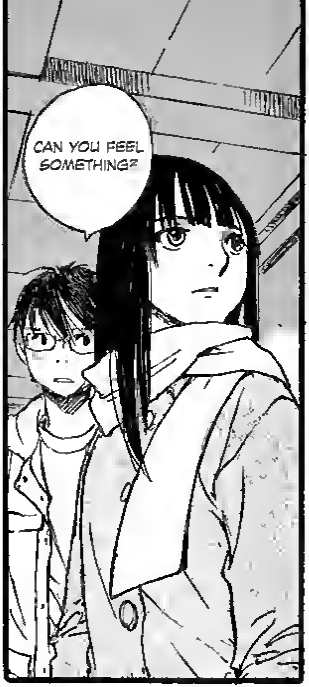

IT USED TO BE A LIBRARY JUST FOR THE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT,
BUT THE SCHOOL GOT MORE AND MORE STUDENTS, AND THEY BUILT A BIG LIBRARY IN THE CENTER OF CAMPUS NOBODY USES THIS ONE ANYMORE

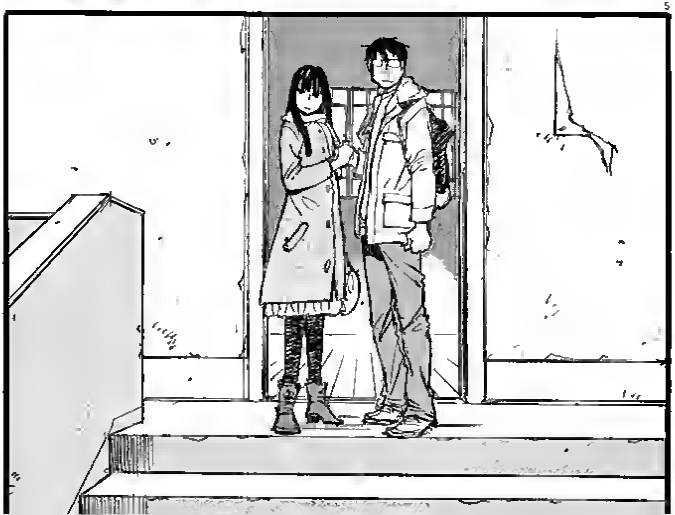
NOWADAYS, PEOPLE WANT TO BUILD ANOTHER ONE BECAUSE EVEN THAT'S GOTTEN TOO SMALL, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA
AN OLD LIBRARY...
Over here

キィ...
I WONDER IF ANYONE'S IN.

...I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE...
BUT IT'S NOT AS BAD A FEELING AS I EXPECTED.

I THINK IT'S AROUND THESE STAIRS


CAN YOU FEEL SOMETHING?

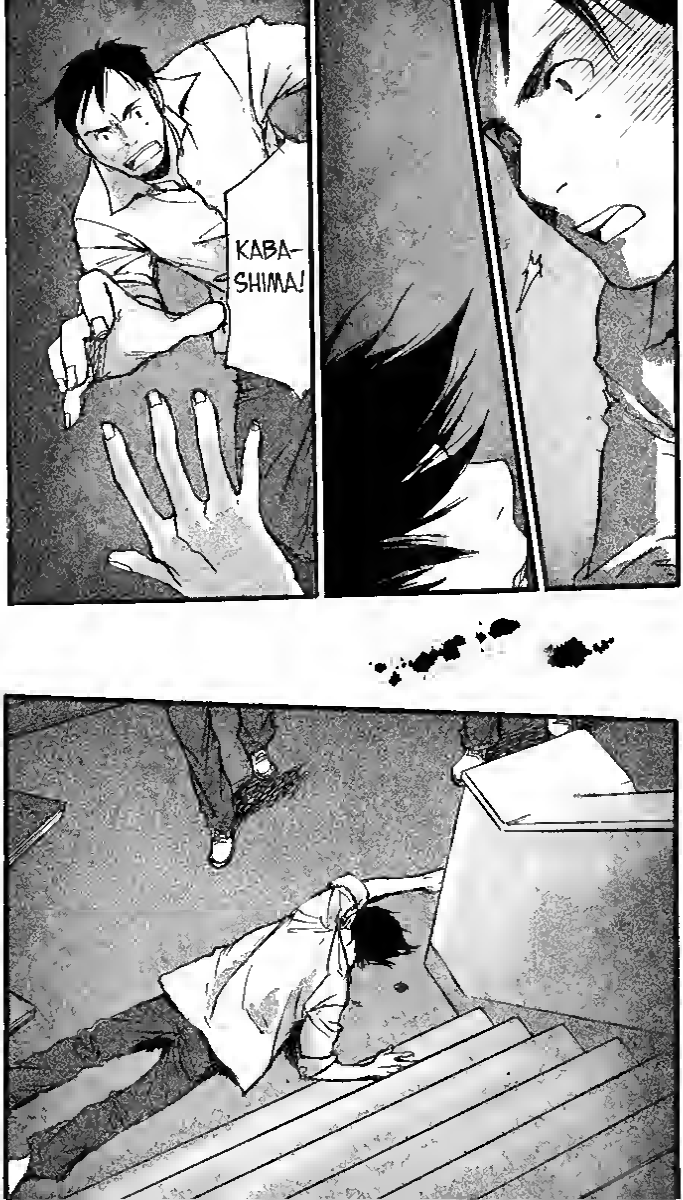


WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

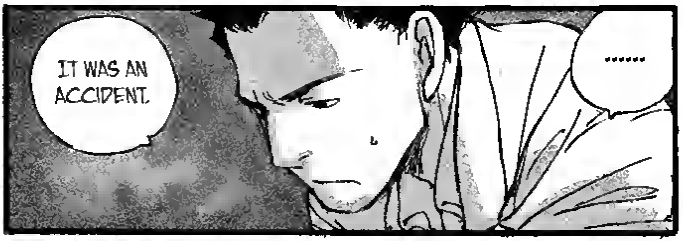
LOOK, IT'S MY LITTLE SISTER. I NEED THE MONEY.
JUST PRETEND YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING, SUGITA!
ARE YOU FUCKING CRAZY, KABASHIMA?!
YOU SELL OFF SCHOOL BOOKS, AND THEY'RE GONNA START LOOKING FOR WHO'S DOING IT.
THEN I'LL ADMIT IT AND DROP OUT.
C'MON, MAN! ARE YOU SERIOUS?! YOU GET BETTER GRADES THAN I DO! YOUR WHOLE FUTURE'S AHEAD OF YOU!

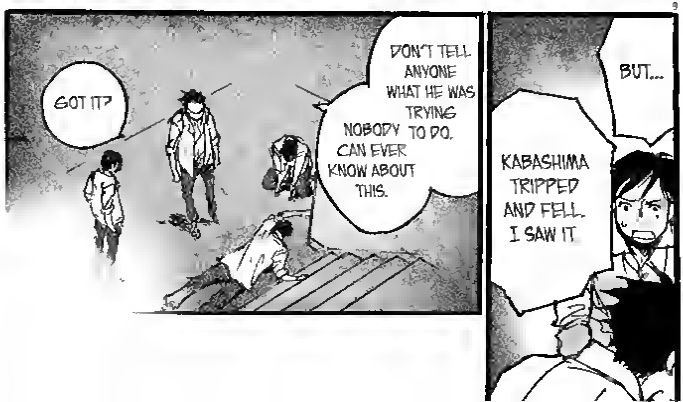
DON'T YOU REALIZE?!
THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON HE LENT YOU THOSE SKETCH-BOOKS
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH PROFESSOR VALLETTO TRUSTS YOU?

SUGITA!
KABASHIMA!

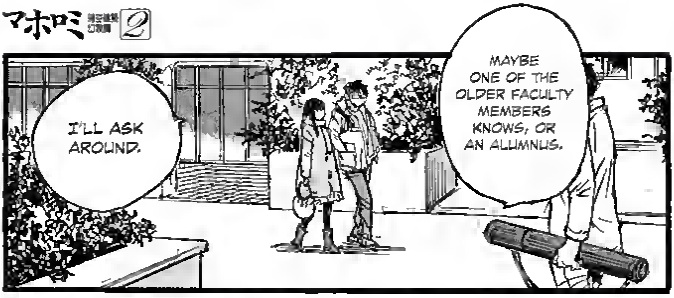

KABA-
SHIMA!

HEY! KABA-SHIMA!
KABA-SHIMA!
..IT'S NO GOOD
HE'S DEAD..
SHIT....


.....
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

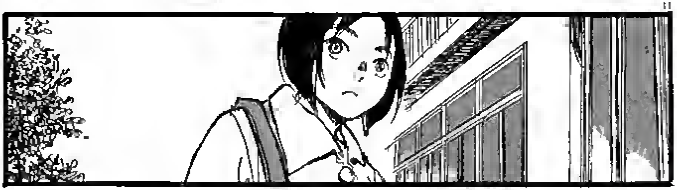

BUT...
KABASHIMA TRIPPED AND FELL. I SAW IT.
DON'T TELL ANYONE WHAT HE WAS TRYING NOBODY TO DO. CAN EVER KNOW ABOUT THIS.
GOT IT?

Ah...
YES...
ARE YOU OKAY?
WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO THOSE PEOPLE ARE FIRST.
OKAY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE CAN DO?


I'LL ASK AROUND.
MAYBE ONE OF THE OLDER FACULTY MEMBERS KNOWS, OR AN ALUMNUS.

NO, THIS TIME, AT LEAST...
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'LL HAPPEN, SO I'LL DO IT MYSELF.

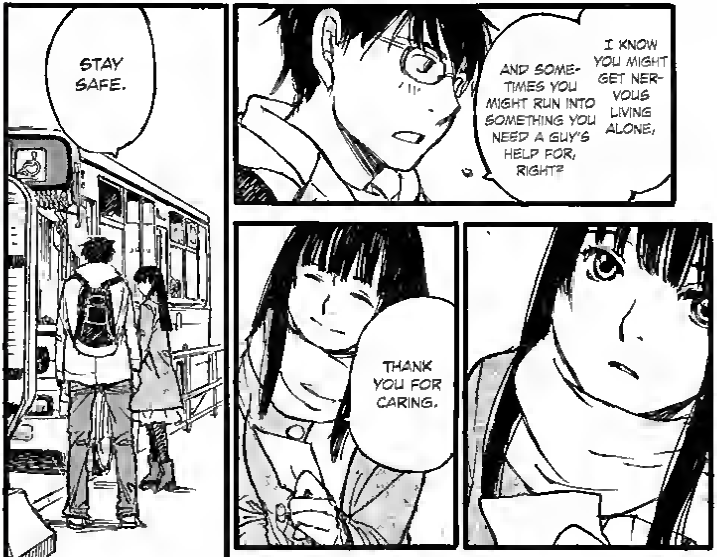
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
I KEEP LEAVING THE HARD WORK UP TO YOU.



I'D WALK YOU HOME, BUT I NEED TO WORK AT THE FIRM TODAY.

I DON'T HAVE A CELLULAR PHONE...
YOU CAN CALL THE NUMBER FROM A HOME PHONE JUST FINE.
HERE'S MY PHONE NUMBER.
CALL ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
AH, RIGHT!
ALMOST FORGOT.
OH, IT'S FINE.

12


STAY SAFE.
I KNOW YOU MIGHT GET NERVOUS LIVING ALONE,
AND SOMETIMES YOU MIGHT RUN INTO SOMETHING YOU NEED A GUY'S HELP FOR, RIGHT?
THANK YOU FOR CARING.

I KNOW YOU MUST BE LONELY LIVING ALONE.
GIVE ME A CALL ANY TIME.
Niwa Takashi

PROFESSOR TAKAHASHI?
WHAT?
MMM...
WELL, YOU'RE HELPING WITH HIS RESEARCH, RIGHT?
HELP IS PUTTING IT NICELY.
MORE LIKE I'VE BEEN CONSCRIPTED.
ちゅー
14
WELL, HE'S BEEN PART OF THE DEPARTMENT FOREVER AND HE SPECIALIZES IN ARCHITECTURE, SO I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD ASK HIM SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OLD LIBRARY.
SO WHAT'S UP?

I DUNNO..
REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME BEFORE?
THAT BUILDINGS HAVE SOULS, TOO?
I SUDDENLY STARTED TO FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU MEANT...
SO YOU'RE GONNA ENTER THE CONTEST AFTER ALL, HUH.
WELL, MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. I'M JUST CURIOUS
YOU'RE BEING WEIRD, TOUYA
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? YOU DIDN'T USE TO BE THIS INTO OLD BUILDINGS.
5
PROFESSOR TAKAHASHI'S NOT IN TODAY.
HOLD ON.
W-WELL, THEY'RE NOT JUST DELUSIONS ANYMORE, HUH!
FINE
AKIRA?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
Katsumi, Akira's father (56)

SORRY, DADDY, BUT ONE OF MY FRIENDS WANTS TO TALK TO HIM...
WHAT DO YOU NEED?
PROFESSOR TAKAHASHI? HE JUST GOT DONE WITH HIS SPAR.
FATHER! PLEASE DON'T USE PHONES IN THE DOJO!
PROFESSOR, MY DAUGHTER'S FRIEND—
YOU WERE WALKING WITH SOME LONG-HAIRED GIRL, WEREN'T YOU?
I ONLY SAW HER FROM BEHIND.
SO...
ABOUT YESTERDAY...
WHAT?! I HAD NO IDEA.
HE SAYS TO DROP BY HIS OFFICE TOMORROW.
PROFESSOR TAKAHASHI IS ONE OF MY GRANDPA'S STUDENTS.
IT'S NOT REALLY IMPORTANT.

I MEAN!
NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF MY BUSINESS OR ANYTHING!
BUT I WAS JUST CURIOUS I HAVEN'T SEEN HER AROUND OUR PART OF CAMPUS BEFORE.
OH, UMM.
WELL...
N-NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING.
SEE YOU!
WHAT?!
HEY...
AKIRA...
17
WHO WAS SHE?! IS SHE A STUDENT HERE?! MORE IMPORTANTLY, IS SHE TAKEN?
I SAW YOU WALKING WITH A PRETTY GIRL YESTERDAY!
WHAT THE HELL, YOU TOO?
WHAT?!
O-OH, SAKAMOTO...
NIWA THAT GIRL YESTERDAY
DETAILS, TALK!

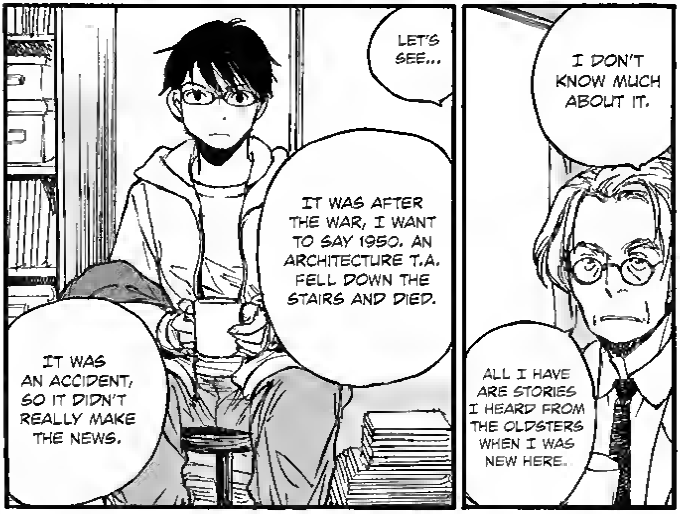
.....
SO, WHO IS SHE?
YOU SHOULDA BEEN MORE CAREFUL
WELL, YOU WERE KINDA HARD TO MISS, Y'KNOW.
IT'S NOT LIKE THE ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT'S EXACTLY HUGE.
DON'T RUN, YOU CUR! TELL ME!
W-WELL! I'LL SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
Takahashi Research Office
HELLO? I'M NIWA TOUYA, AN ARCHITECTURE FIRST YEAR.
SEE YA.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING FORGET HER.
Ahahaha.
HEY!
SHE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MORTALS LIKE US.
THE HELL?!
What?
SHE JUST CAME DOWN FROM ON HIGH TO TAKE A BRIEF LOOK AROUND.

EXCUSE ME.
AH, WATCH YOUR STEP.
Architecture Professor Takahashi Yoshiyuki (58)
G. de Lalande
I'LL CLEAN UP A SPACE JUST A MOMENT.
I COULD HAVE SWORN THERE WAS A CHAIR HERE SOMEWHERE
OH, I CAN JUST STAY STANDING.
PHEW...
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE?
IT'S INSTANT, BUT I HOPE IT'LL DO
YES, PLEASE, THANK YOU.

SO,
YOU SAID IT WAS ABOUT THE OLD LIBRARY?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
UMM...
IT'S NOT EXACTLY ANYTHING TO DO WITH ARCHITECTURE, REALLY...
THAT'S FINE.
I JUST HOPE I CAN HELP.
WELL,
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT A STUDENT DIED THERE A LONG TIME AGO...
AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT...
HMM.
THAT'S A STORY OVER SIXTY YEARS OLD AT THIS POINT.

FILE 14: The Architecture Students #4

THAT'S A STORY OVER SIXTY YEARS OLD AT THIS POINT.
HMM.


LET'S SEE...
IT WAS AFTER THE WAR, I WANT TO SAY 1950. AN ARCHITECTURE T.A. FELL DOWN THE STAIRS AND DIED.
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, SO IT DIDN'T REALLY MAKE THE NEWS.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT.
ALL I HAVE ARE STORIES I HEARD FROM THE OLDSTERS WHEN I WAS NEW HERE.

BUT THAT YOUNG MAN'S FRIENDS BECAME QUITE FAMOUS ARCHITECTS,
AND THEY WERE KNOWN TO SAY IT WAS THEIR FRIEND'S DEATH THAT HARDENED THEIR RESOLVE TO STUDY HARD.
MAYBE IT WOULD SOON HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN,

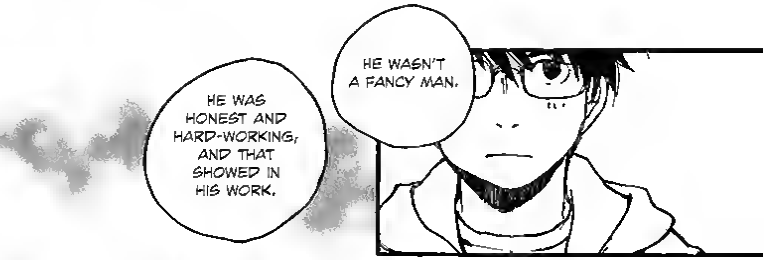
OH?
FAMOUS?
SUGITA...!
THAT WAS...
THE NAMES SUGITA YOSHITADA AND HIYAMA KUNIO USED TO CARRY A LOT OF WEIGHT IN THE 60S AND 70S.
I SUPPOSE YOU YOUNGSTERS WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE THEM ANYMORE. THEY'VE BEEN RETIRED FOR OVER A DECADE.
3
BACK THEN, MANY TEACHING ASSISTANTS WOULD GRADUATE AS NORMAL,
BUT INSTEAD OF MOVING ONTO GRAD SCHOOL THEY'D STAY AND CONTINUE LEARNING FROM THE PROFESSORS
SUGITA AND THE YOUNG MAN WHO DIED BOTH STUDIED UNDER WILLIAM VALLETTO,
AN ARCHITECT FROM THE UNITED STATES.
HE WORKED IN AND AROUND YOKOHAMA, AND WAS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGNING THE OLD LIBRARY.
HE LEFT FOR HIS HOME COUNTRY DURING THE WAR, BUT RETURNED AFTER IT ENDED AND EVEN TAUGHT HERE AS A PROFESSOR FOR A FEW YEARS.
SO THAT'S THE PROFESSOR VALLETTO THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT...
...
1

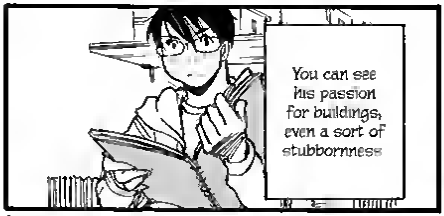
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH, UMM. IT'S NOTHING.
WELL, ANYWAY. THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
NO, THAT'S IT...
THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO TALK TO ME.
MR. NIWA, WAS IT?
ANY RELATION TO MR. NIWA TAKUSHI, BY ANY CHANCE?
YES...?
I SEE, I SEE. I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO MEET YOUR GRANDFATHER SEVERAL TIMES.
OH, YES. I'M HIS GRANDSON
I QUITE LIKED HIS WORK, YOU SEE.
ARE YOU LOOKING TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT, YOURSELF?

... I STILL HAVEN'T MADE A DECISION.
...
PROFESSOR...
IT WOULD BE NICE, BUT...
WHAT MAKES AN ARCHITECT AN ARTIST?
WHAT MAKES AN ARCHITECT SPECIAL?

A FINE QUESTION.
MANY PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO DEFINE THAT IN CONCRETE TERMS,
BUT ALL ANYONE CAN REALLY AGREE ON IS THAT THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT SETS SOME ARCHITECTS APART.

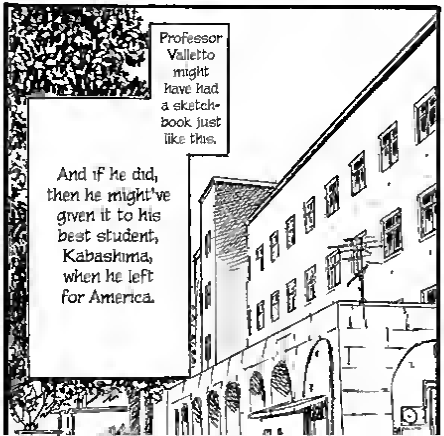
MR. NIWA MAY HAVE FOCUSED MOSTLY ON SMALL HOUSES,
BUT HE DEFINITELY HAD THAT SPECIAL SOMETHING.
THAT SAID, HE DISLIKED BEING CALLED AN ARTIST,
AND INSISTED HE WAS NOTHING BUT A SIMPLE ARCHITECT.

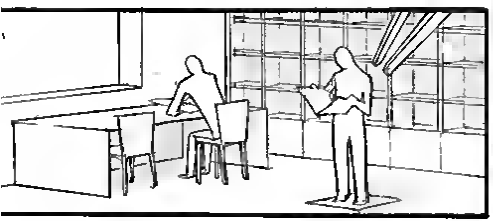

HE WASN'T A FANCY MAN.
HE WAS HONEST AND HARD-WORKING, AND THAT SHOWED IN HIS WORK.

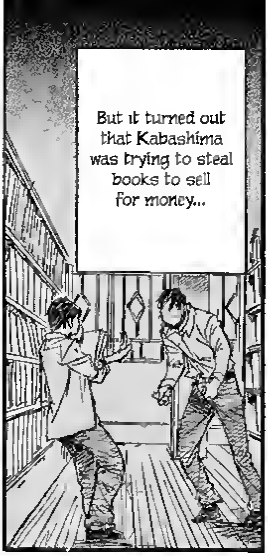

You can see his passion for buildings, even a sort of stubbornness

"He was honest and hard-working."
Yeah, I can tell that much when I flip through his sketchbook.

6


Professor Valletto might have had a sketch-book just like this.
And if he did, then he might've given it to his best student, Kabashima, when he left for America.

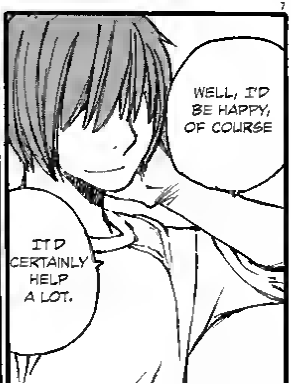



But it turned out that Kabashima was trying to steal books to sell for money...

HUH, YOU'VE EVEN GOT PEOPLE IN THE STUDY
ちまちま

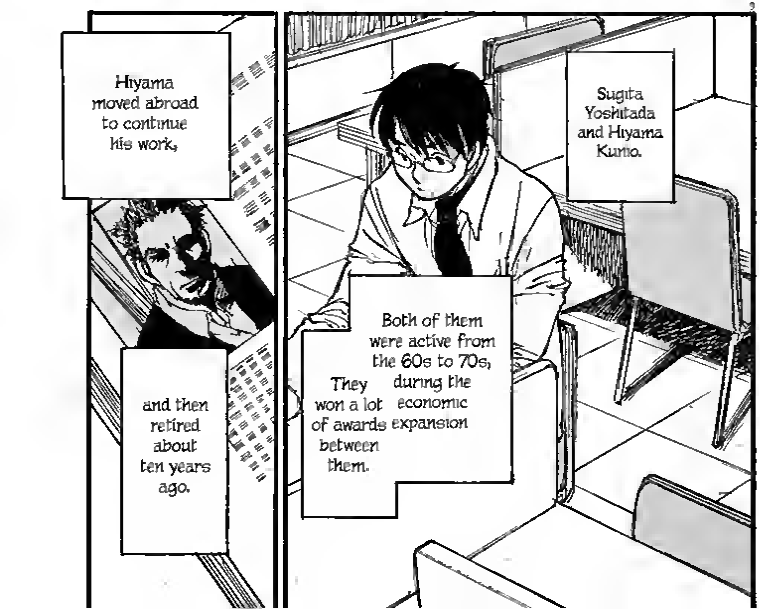
UMM. MIKI, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION.
IF AN ARCHITECT YOU REALLY RESPECTED LEFT YOU ONE OF THEIR SKETCH-BOOKS,
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?

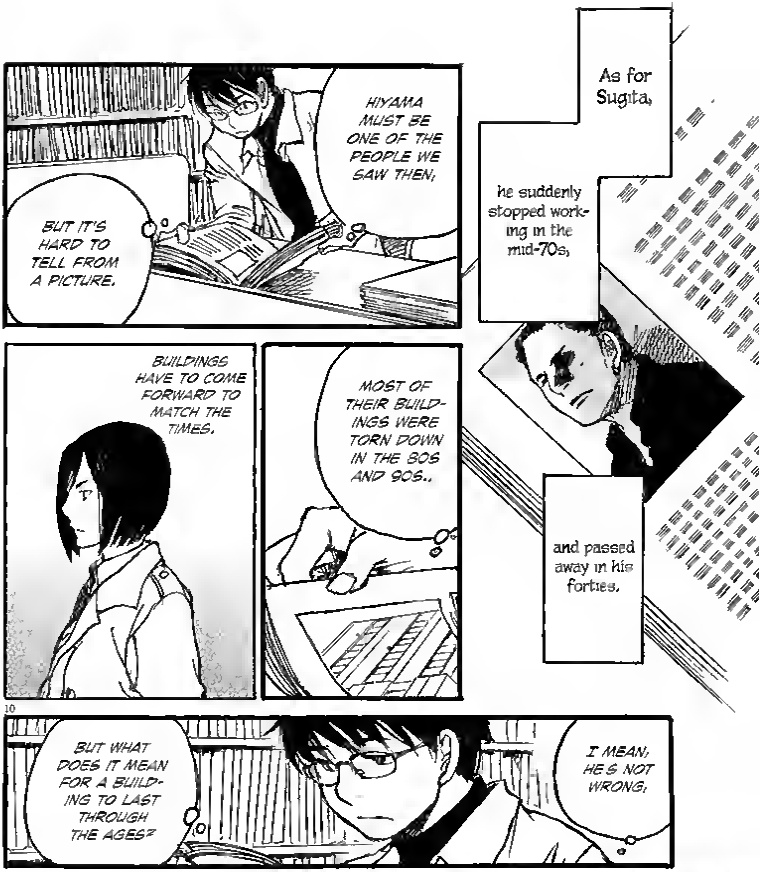
IT MEANS THEY'VE ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR SKILL, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THAT.
Archi


WELL, I'D BE HAPPY, OF COURSE
IT'D CERTAINLY HELP A LOT.

WHY DO YOU WANNA KNOW?
OH, UMM JUST CURIOUS
RIGHT...
WE ENDED UP TALKING ABOUT MR. NIWA,
AND WHEN I TOLD HIM HIS GRANDSON WAS WORKING AT THE FIRM, HE SAID HE'D REALLY LIKE TO MEET YOU.
WANNA COME ALONG WITH ME THIS SUNDAY?
THAT'S RIGHT, NIWA?
SO YOU KNOW HOW I WAS AT MR. MATSUMOTO'S FUNERAL RECENTLY, RIGHT
I MET SOMEONE WHO'D GONE TO SCHOOL WITH HIM THERE!
HUH? SURE. WHAT FOR?

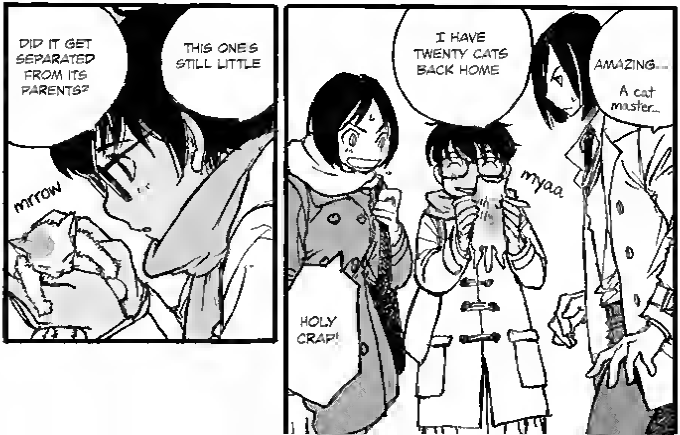
I DUNNO IF YOUR GENERATION WOULD RECOGNIZE HIM,
BUT HIYAMA KUNIO USED TO BE PRETTY FAMOUS AMONG US ARCHITECTURE TYPES
ガチャ

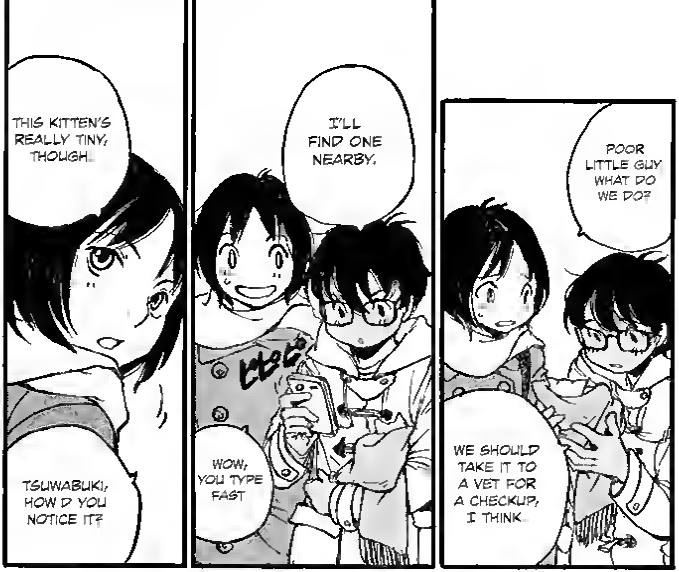

Sugita Yoshitada and Hiyama Kunio.
Both of them were active from the 60s to 70s, during the economic expansion
They won a lot of awards between them.
Hiyama moved abroad to continue his work,
and then retired about ten years ago.


HIYAMA MUST BE ONE OF THE PEOPLE WE SAW THEN.
BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL FROM A PICTURE.
As for Sugita,
he suddenly stopped working in the mid-70s,
and passed away in his forties.
MOST OF THEIR BUILDINGS WERE TORN DOWN IN THE 80S AND 90S..
BUILDINGS HAVE TO COME FORWARD TO MATCH THE TIMES.
10
BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A BUILDING TO LAST THROUGH THE AGES?
I MEAN, HE'S NOT WRONG.
LARI, HOW IS WORK GOING ON THE CONTEST?
MMM— I'M STILL IN THE PLANNING PHASE.

I'D LIKE IT IF THE DESKS IN THE READING ROOM OF OUR CURRENT LIBRARY WERE A LITTLE BIGGER.
HUH?
YOU'RE RIGHT..
OH, TOTALLY! BUT I THINK IF THEY DID, THEN PEOPLE'D START DOING THEIR HOMEWORK THERE.
11
WHATCHA DOIN'?
TSUWABUKI.
OH...

THERE'S A... CAT...
HUH?
OH...
tsk tsk tsk
C'MON, LITTLE FELLOW!
COME ON OUT
A CAT?
I THINK IT'S MORE OF A KITTEN THAN A FULL GROWN CAT.
IT'S HIDING IN THERE AND WON'T COME OUT.

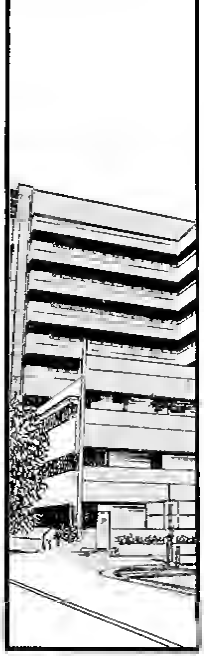

DID IT GET SEPARATED FROM ITS PARENTS?
THIS ONE'S STILL LITTLE
MITTOW
I HAVE TWENTY CATS BACK HOME
AMAZING... A cat master...
myaa
HOLY CRAP!

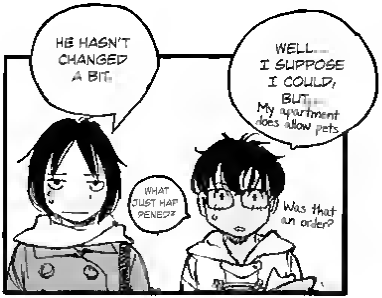

THIS KITTEN'S REALLY TINY, THOUGH...
TSUWABUKI, HOW D YOU NOTICE IT?
I'LL FIND ONE NEARBY.
WOW, YOU TYPE FAST
POOR LITTLE GUY WHAT DO WE DO?
WE SHOULD TAKE IT TO A VET FOR A CHECKUP, I THINK...

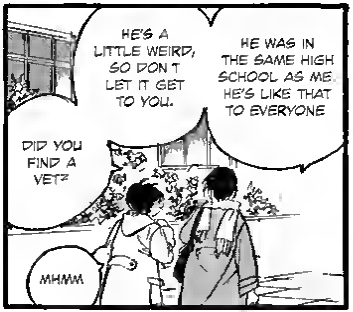
YOU LIKE CATS, RIGHT?
TAKE CARE OF IT WELL, THEN.
WHAT?

IT'S NOTH- I JUST ING... HEARD IT MEOWING...
WAIT, TSUWA-BUKI!

I'LL LEAVE IT IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.
WHAT? YOU'RE JUST LEAVING IT BEHIND?






HE'S A LITTLE WEIRD, SO DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
HE WAS IN THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS ME. HE'S LIKE THAT TO EVERYONE
DID YOU FIND A VET?
MHMM

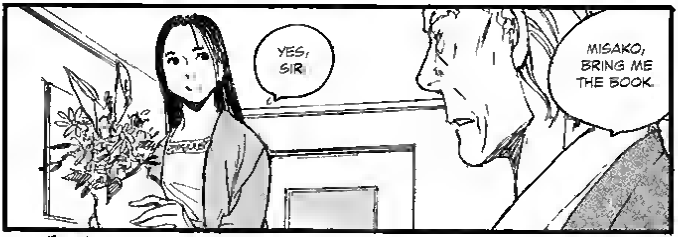
503

HIYAMA KUNIO

So this is Hiyama from the vision?
NO, IT'S FINE.

I'M SORRY TO HAVE CALLED YOU OUT HERE

Yeah... There's no doubt about it.


YES, SIR!
MISAKO, BRING ME THE BOOK.

I'D FORGOTTEN ALL BUT NOW ABOUT IT, I'M GIVING IT BACK TO YOU
BAU HAUS
THIS IS THE BOOK I BORROWED FROM YOUR GRANDFATHER.

HE BROUGHT IT BACK FROM GERMANY ONE DAY, A LONG TIME AGO.
I REMEMBER HE WAS STILL STRUGGLING THROUGH THE GERMAN WHEN AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION CAME OUT.
OH.
HAHA, I SEE...
THERE WAS A PICTURE INSIDE.
AH, FROM MY SCHOOL DAYS.
MAYBE IT SLIPPED IN WHEN I WAS REORGANIZING MY PHOTO ALBUMS.

WE HOLED UP IN THE LIBRARY EVEN DURING THE WEEKENDS,
PRACTICALLY MAKING A CONTEST OUT OF WHO COULD STUDY HARDEST.
MY MEMORIES OF UNIVERSITY ARE SOME OF MY MOST CHERISHED
MY FRIENDS AND I... WE TALKED, WE ARGUED, WE DISCUSSED OUR DREAMS.
..GOOD MEMORIES, ALL OF THEM.
17
I THINK MR. MATSUMOTO'S DEATH HIT HIM HARD

...WELL.

SUGITA YOSHITADA COMMITTED SUICIDE OVER THREE DECADES AGO.

I THINK HE WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE.

AND THE MR. SUGITA YOU MENTIONED, HE WAS AN ARCHITECT TOO, RIGHT?

IS HE RETIRED NOW?

I HEAR IT WAS PRETTY BIG NEWS BACK THEN, BUT I WAS STILL A KID SO I CAN'T REMEMBER MUCH.

HE DIDN'T LEAVE A WILL BEHIND EITHER,

SO NOBODY KNOWS WHY HE DID WHAT HE DID

WHAT?

KILLING YOURSELF LIKE THAT... I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT DID TO HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

MAN.

BUT I THINK IT MUST HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH KABASHIMA'S ACCIDENT.
A SUICIDE...?
.....
THANKS FOR THE TEA.
AND YEAH I DUNNO WHY...
ACCIDENT OR NOT, IT MUST HAVE REALLY WEIGHED ON HIM.
MAYBE, YEAH...
MR. MATSUMOTO KNEW, AND MR. HIYAMA DOES TOO...
BUT NONE OF THEM EVER TOLD MR. SUGITA'S FAMILY ABOUT IT...
THEY KEPT IT A SECRET SO THAT KABASHIMA'S MEMORY WOULDN'T BE TARNISHED.
BUT TO DO SO THEY HAD TO LIE ABOUT AND CONCEAL WAY MORE THAN THAT...

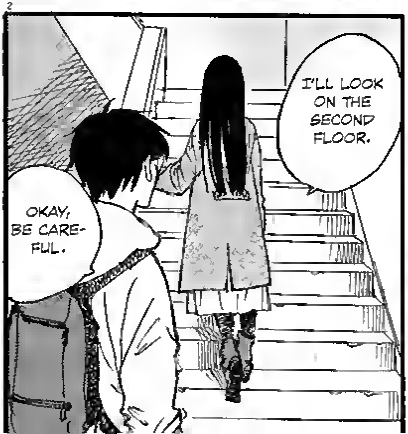
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT THE LIBRARY WAS TRYING TO TELL US.
—YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT...
ACCIDENT OR NOT, SUSPICION WOULD'VE FALLEN ON MR. SUGITA.
THE DECISION WAS MADE TO PROTECT THE BOTH OF THEM, BUT IN THE END IT WAS STILL A COVER UP.
20
REMEMBER WHAT MR. SUGITA SAID THEN?
THINK ABOUT IT.
OH...
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH PROFESSOR VALLETTO TRUSTS YOU?
THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON HE LENT YOU THOSE SKETCH-BOOKS.
MAYBE ONE OF THOSE SKETCHBOOKS IS STILL THERE SOMEWHERE IN THE LIBRARY.
AND IT WANTS US TO FIND IT.

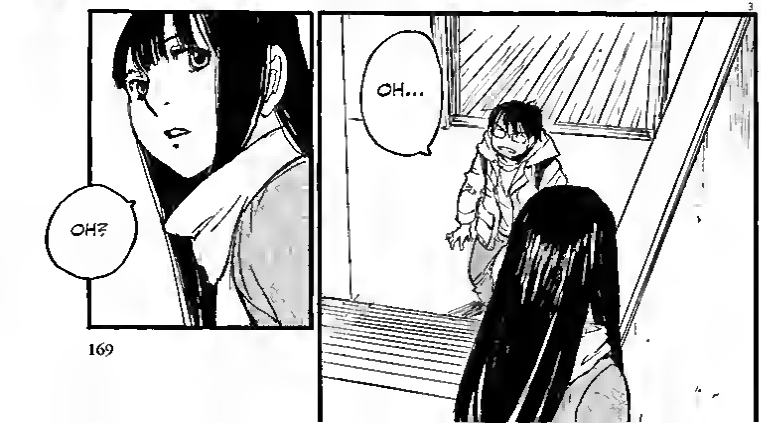
FILE-15: The Architecture Students #5

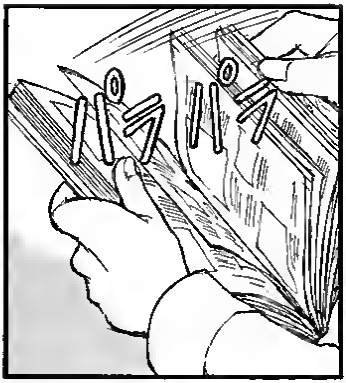
IF HE REALLY DID HIDE IT, THEN IT WAS PROBABLY PUT SOMEWHERE IT WOULDN'T BE FOUND EASILY.
THERE'S NO BOOKCASES ANYWHERE. THE OTHER ROOMS ARE ALL EMPTY TOO.

IF NOBODY KNEW ABOUT THE SKETCHBOOK, THEN IT MIGHT BE THAT NOBODY LOOKED FOR IT.
LET'S SEARCH WHERE WE CAN.

STILL. SIXTY YEARS WITHOUT EVER BEING FOUND?
MAYBE HE HID IT IN THE CEILING? OR UNDER THE FLOOR-BOARDS?
BUT IN THAT CASE IT'S NOT EXACTLY LIKE WE CAN FIND IT WITH WHAT WE HAVE.


I'LL LOOK ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
OKAY, BE CARE-FUL.


OH...
OH?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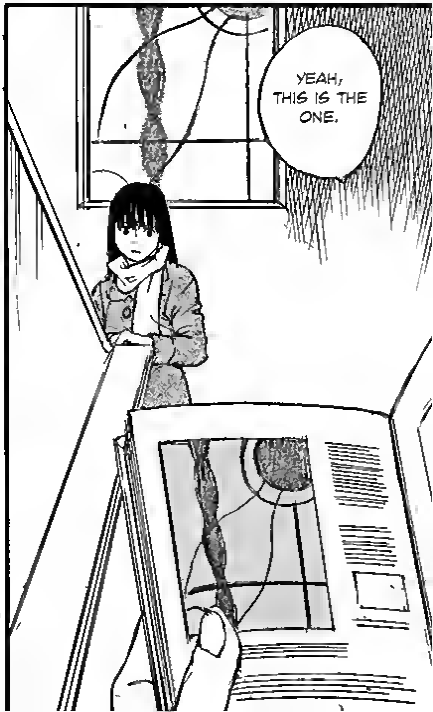
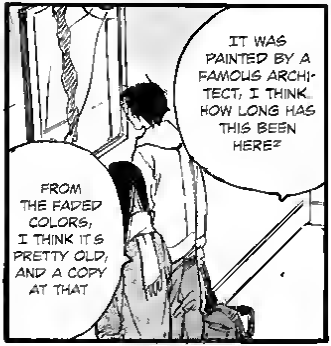
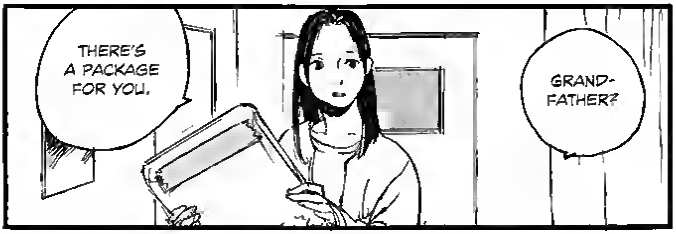
THAT PAINTING!
I THINK I SAW IT IN THE BOOK THAT MR. HIYAMA GAVE ME...

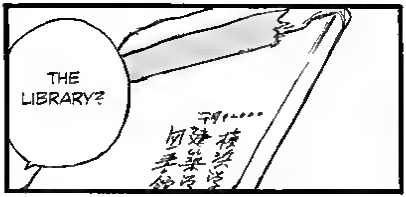
WHAT?


YEAH, THIS IS THE ONE.


IT WAS PAINTED BY A FAMOUS ARCHITECT, I THINK. HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN HERE?
FROM THE FADED COLORS, I THINK IT'S PRETTY OLD, AND A COPY AT THAT

THIS BUILDING WAS CLOSED DOWN ABOUT FORTY YEARS AGO...
AND IF IT'S BEEN HANGING HERE SINCE THEN, OR MAYBE EVEN BEFORE THEN...
MAYBE...?
AACK!
OH NO!
OH.


THERE'S A PACKAGE FOR YOU.
GRAND-FATHER?


THE LIBRARY?

FROM WHO?
IT'S FROM THE UNIVERSITY, BUT THERE'S NO NAME WRITTEN ON IT.

6

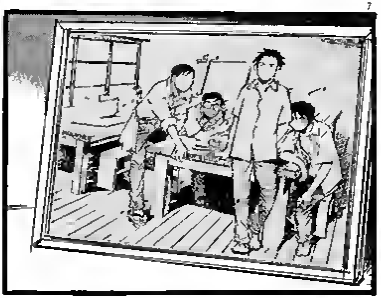
DRAWING

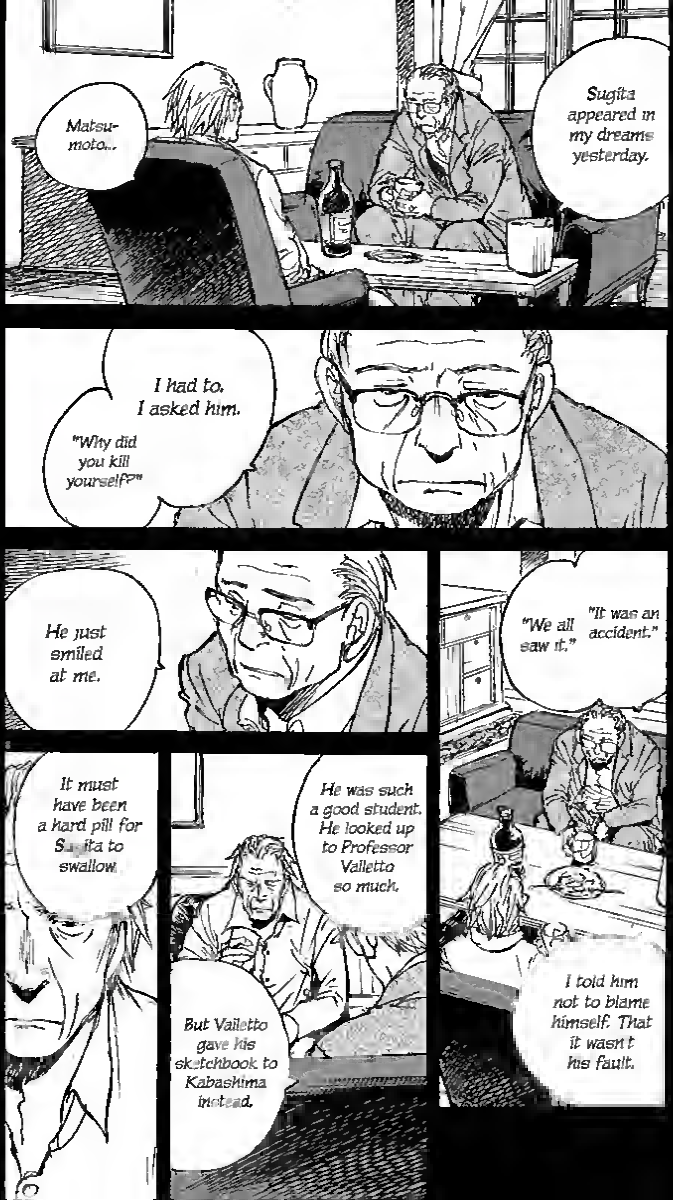
Valletto

A SKETCH-BOOK...?

VALLETTO...

I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THOSE DAYS LATELY.




Matsumoto...
Sugita appeared in my dreams yesterday.
"Why did you kill yourself?"
I had to. I asked him.
He just smiled at me.
"It was an accident."
"We all saw it."
I told him not to blame himself. That it wasn't his fault.
It must have been a hard pill for Sugita to swallow.
He was such a good student. He looked up to Professor Valletto so much.
But Valletto gave his sketchbook to Kabashima instead.

Sugita! Kabashima!
Do you...
Do you really think it was just an accident?
Kabashima, the professor gave you his sketchbook!

Yes, it was just an accident
Yes...
DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO SENT IT?
SEND THIS TO KABASHIMA'S BROTHER. YOSHIO, I THINK HIS NAME WAS
MR. SUGITA?
BUT HE PASSED AWAY A LONG TIME AGO...
...
IT WAS SUGITA.

HIS BROTHER?
HE SHOULD BE IN MY ADDRESS BOOK. LOOK FOR "SENATOR KABASHIMA."
I'LL WRITE A LETTER.

NOW...
NOW IT'S FINALLY ALL OVER, ISN'T IT?

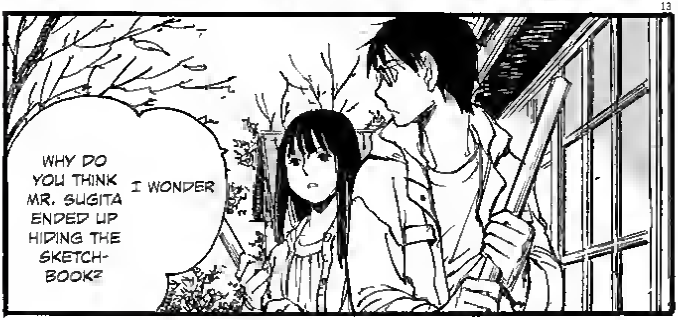
A week later,
Mr. Hiyama
passed away

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT'RE THE ODDS THAT MR HIYAMA WOULD GIVE ME BACK JUST THE RIGHT BOOK ONE THAT MY GRANDFATHER HAD LENT HIM?

……

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH MY GRANDPA'S THE ONE WHO HELPED ME...

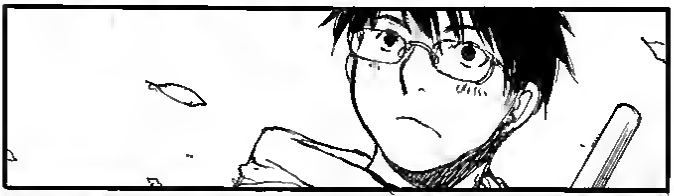
13


I WONDER WHY DO YOU THINK MR. SUGITA ENDED UP HIDING THE SKETCH-BOOK?

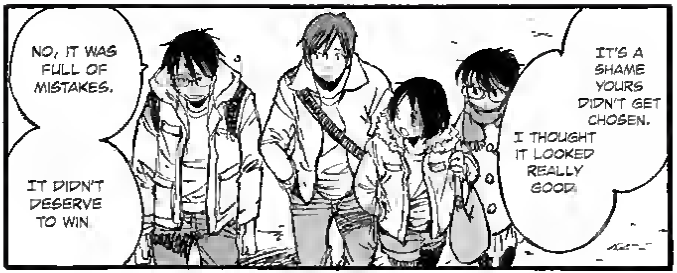
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A LOT OF THOUGHTS RUNNING THROUGH HIS HEAD
MAYBE HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO HIMSELF?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW WELL MYSELF,
BUT MAYBE HE FELT LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT TO PASS IT ON TO MR KABASHIMA'S RELATIVES.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO HAVE IT HIMSELF.
MR. HIYAMA KEPT THE SECRET TO THE END.
IT MUST HAVE PAINED HIM SO MUCH...
I'M SURE IT WAS.
IT MUST HAVE WEIGHED HEAVILY ON THE LIBRARY ITSELF, TOO.

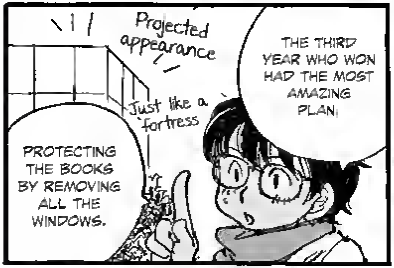
IT KEPT WATCH OVER THE STUDENTS WHO PASSED THROUGH IT OVER THE YEARS, SMART PEOPLE WHO STUDIED HARD LIKE MR. HIYAMA AND HIS FRIENDS
I KNOW THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PLACE WHERE THE STUDENTS FELT AT EASE.

I KNOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DESIGN A LIBRARY LIKE THAT, TOO.
AND I KNOW...

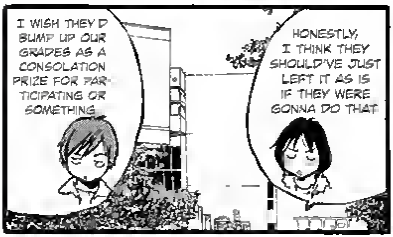


For the first time in my life, using the tools my father had used,
I put the plans in my head down onto paper.
Her words were simple, but they spurred me to action.
Like they'd broken down some bastion of reluctance inside me.


NO, IT WAS FULL OF MISTAKES.
IT DIDN'T DESERVE TO WIN.
IT'S A SHAME YOURS DIDN'T GET CHOSEN.
I THOUGHT IT LOOKED REALLY GOOD!


Projected appearance
Just like a fortress
THE THIRD YEAR WHO WON HAD THE MOST AMAZING PLAN!
PROTECTING THE BOOKS BY REMOVING ALL THE WINDOWS.

SAME GOES FOR YOU, LARI.
I JUST HAVE TO GRIN AND BEAR IT.


I WISH THEY'D BUMP UP OUR GRADES AS A CONSOLATION PRIZE FOR PARTICIPATING OR SOMETHING.
HONESTLY, I THINK THEY SHOULD'VE JUST LEFT IT AS IS IF THEY WERE GONNA DO THAT.

17

It's okay!
IT'S A REAL SHAME, NIWA.
UMM... NO, I'M FINE, REALLY.
YOU'LL GET IT NEXT TIME.
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN.
Ack

HONESTLY, I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED.
IF YOU WON THAT CONTEST,
YOU COULD HAVE LEFT US BEHIND TO GO TO A MORE FAMOUS PLACE, YOU KNOW?

Left-overs from Christ-mas
PITY PARTY, LITERALLY.
WHAT'S EVEN GOING ON HERE?
パン

ACTUALLY, ONE OF OUR CONTRACTS JUST GOT CANCELED, TOO.
C'mon, drown your sorrows with drink
LAYING IT ON A BIT THICK, AREN'T YOU?
WHATEVER EXCUSE WE CAN GET TO DRINK, WORKS FOR ME

THAT'S WHY YOU WANT ME?!
GOOD. WE NEED YOUR MODEL CONSTRUCTION SKILLS, AFTER ALL.
...I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
I BROUGHT OUT THE KOTATSU.
IT'S BEEN GETTING COLD THESE DAYS. PLEASE, COME IN.

NO, IT'S OKAY. I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU THE RESULTS.
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR WORK.
OH!
OH?

OH! IT'S SNOWING ..

FILE 16: Spring Thunder

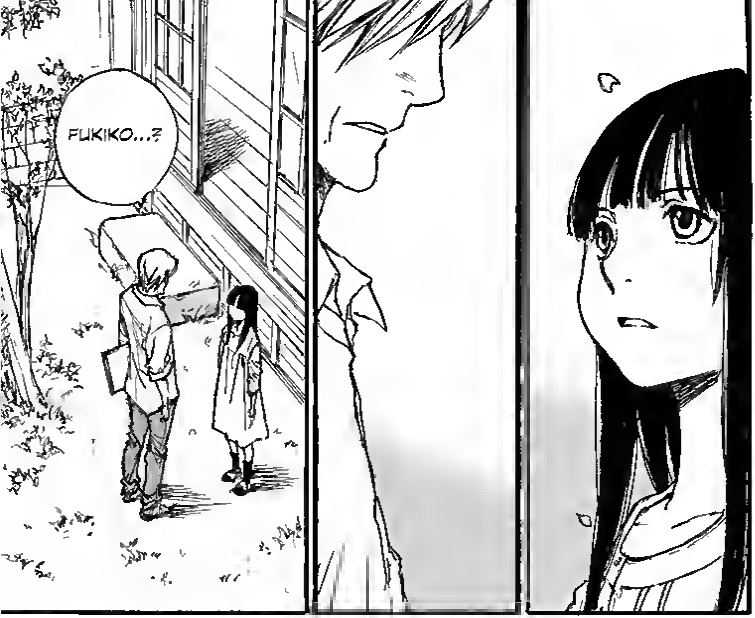
The sakura had just blossomed, the petals drifting on the wind.

Spring was winding down, a hint of chill still in the air.

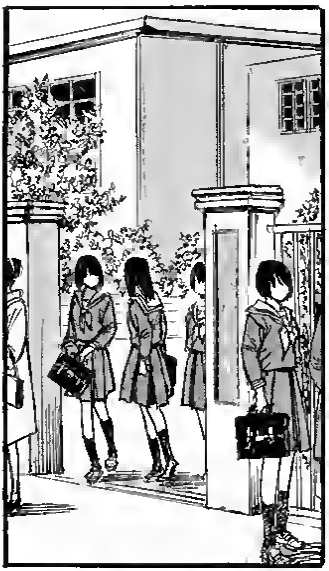
I arrived at the cottage in Yokohama that my grandmother had left me.

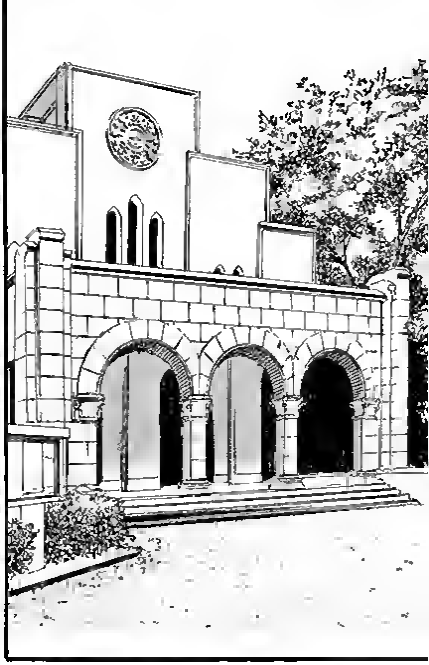
I found an old picture in the drawer.
It was of a man. I knew who he was
He was the one my grandmother had kept secret, till the very end.
The man whose memory she'd held cherished in her heart

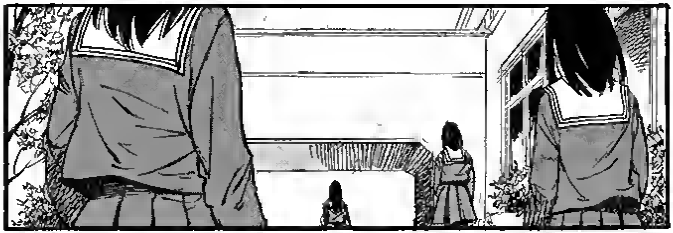
I BROUGHT HIM HERE.
I ONLY HAD TO TELL HIM ABOUT YOU,
AND HE SAID HE HAD TO SEE YOU.


FUKIKO...?

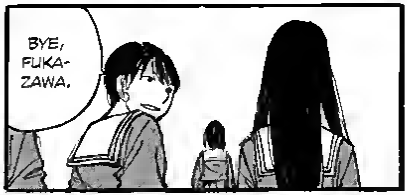
YOU...
YOU REMEMBER MY GRAND-MOTHER?



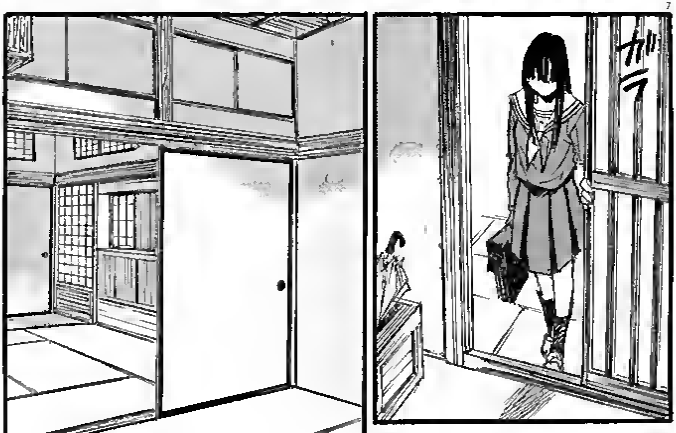




...GOOD-
BYE.


BYE,
FUKA-
ZAWA.

WHOA, SHE CAN TALK AFTER ALL!
SHE CAN HEAR YOU, Y KNOW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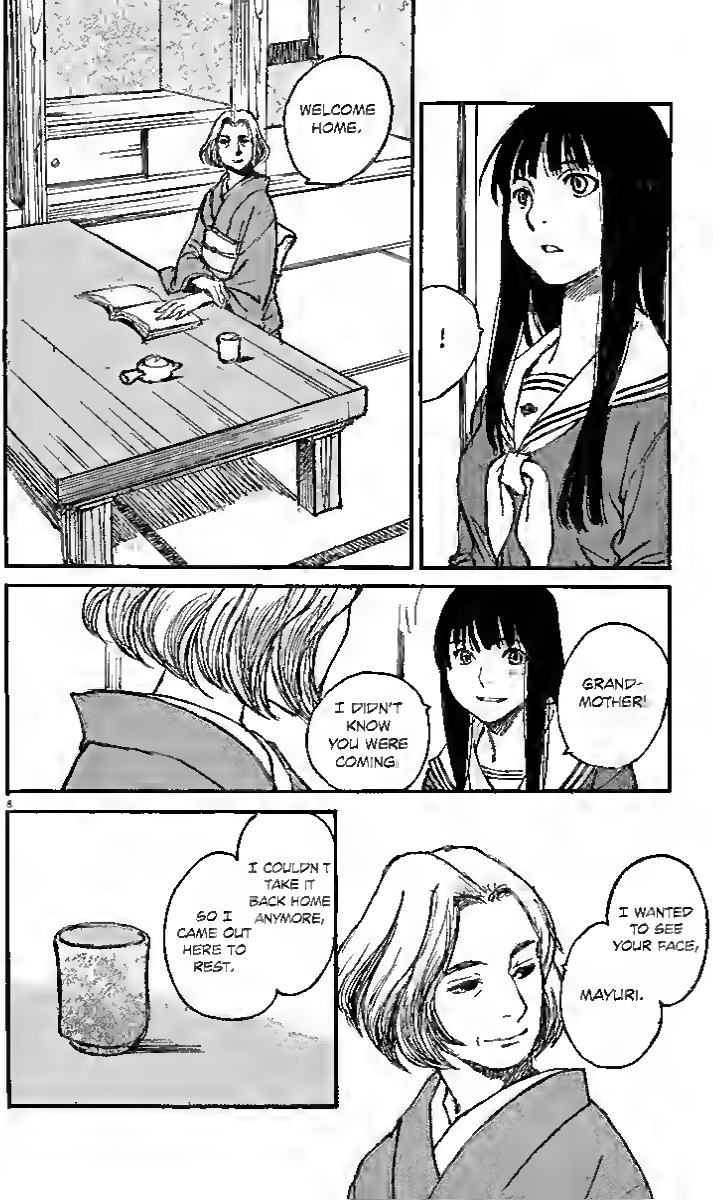
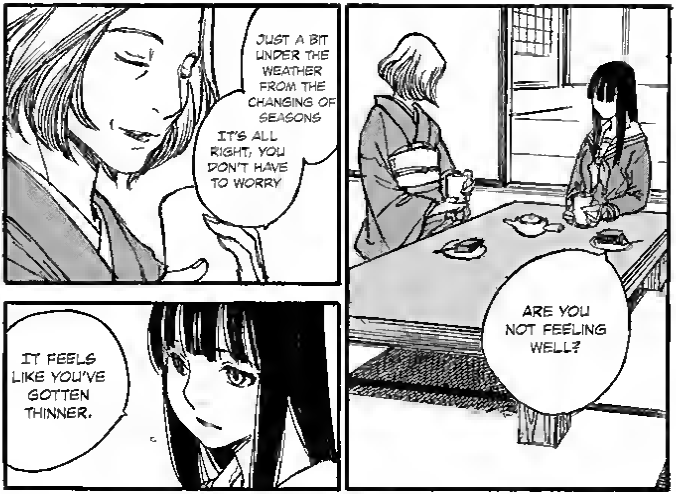
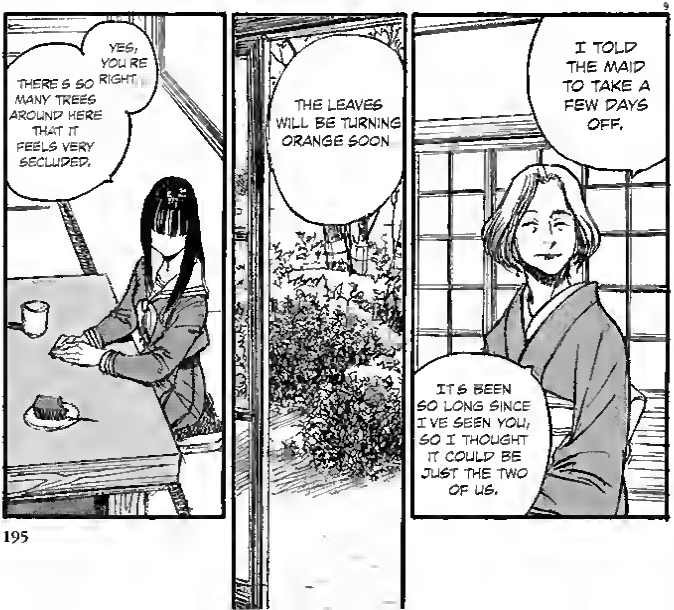
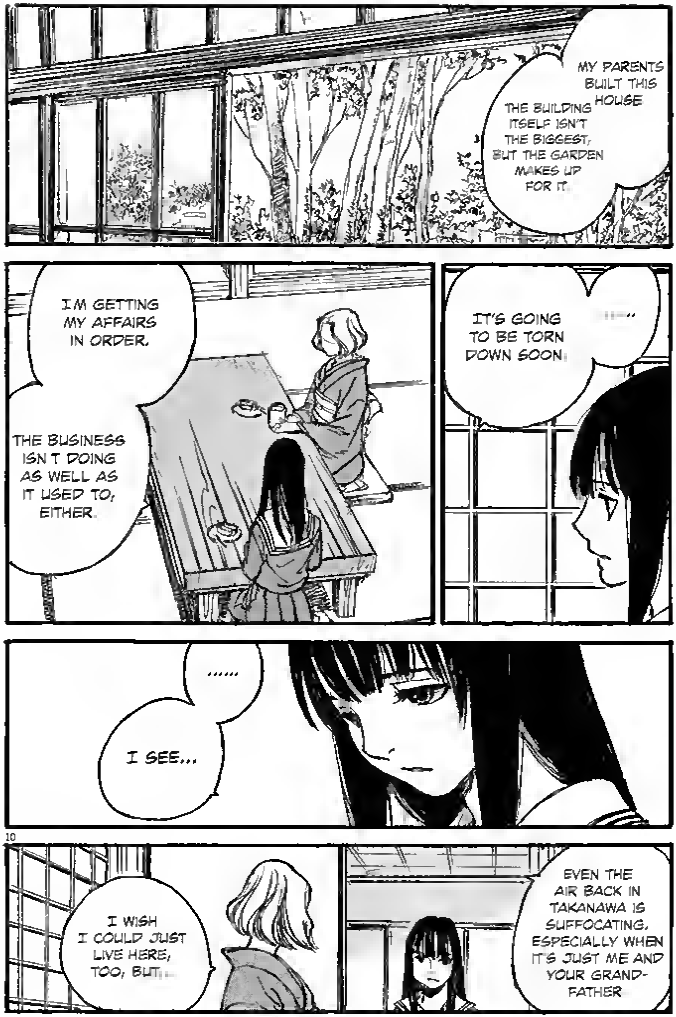
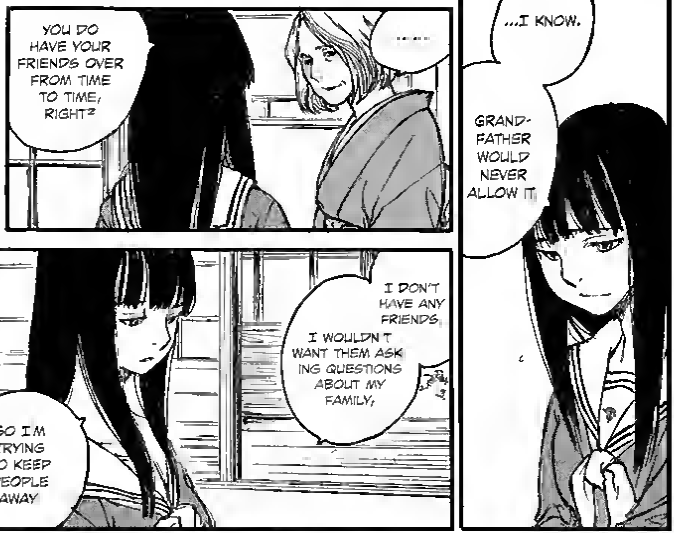
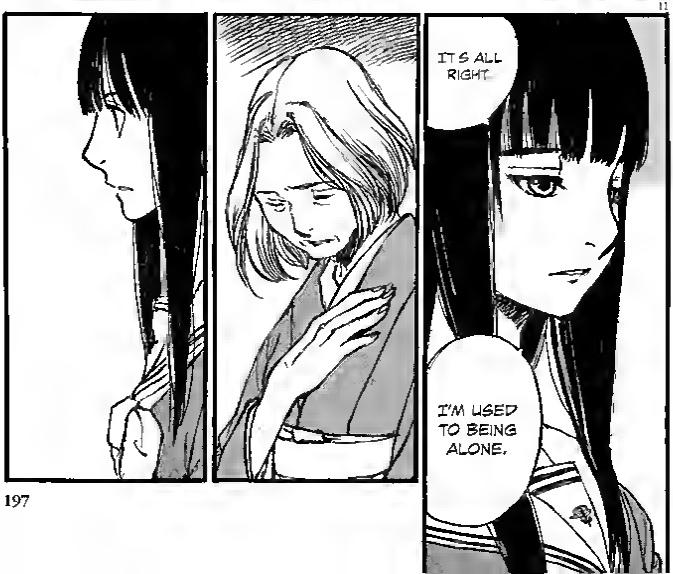

WELCOME HOME.
!
GRAND-MOTHER!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING.
I COULDN'T TAKE IT BACK HOME ANYMORE, SO I CAME OUT HERE TO REST.
I WANTED TO SEE YOUR FACE, MAYURI.

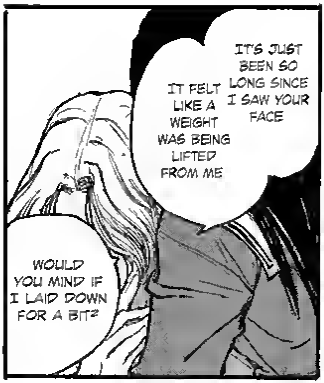

JUST A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER FROM THE CHANGING OF SEASONS
IT'S ALL RIGHT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN THINNER.

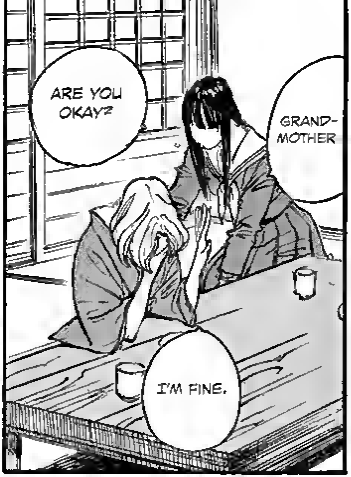

I TOLD THE MAID TO TAKE A FEW DAYS OFF.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU, SO I THOUGHT IT COULD BE JUST THE TWO OF US.
THE LEAVES WILL BE TURNING ORANGE SOON
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE'S SO MANY TREES AROUND HERE THAT IT FEELS VERY SECLUDED.

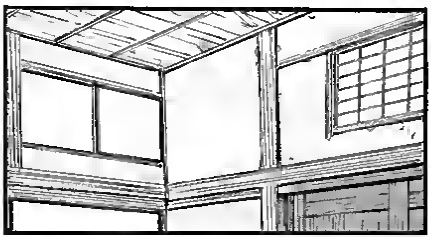

MY PARENTS BUILT THIS HOUSE.
THE BUILDING ITSELF ISN'T THE BIGGEST, BUT THE GARDEN MAKES UP FOR IT.
I'M GETTING MY AFFAIRS IN ORDER.
THE BUSINESS ISN'T DOING AS WELL AS IT USED TO, EITHER.
IT'S GOING TO BE TORN DOWN SOON.
.....
I SEE...
I WISH I COULD JUST LIVE HERE, TOO, BUT...
EVEN THE AIR BACK IN TAKANAWA IS SUFFOCATING, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S JUST ME AND YOUR GRANDFATHER


YOU DO HAVE YOUR FRIENDS OVER FROM TIME TO TIME, RIGHT?
...I KNOW.
GRAND-FATHER WOULD NEVER ALLOW IT.
I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
I WOULDN'T WANT THEM ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT MY FAMILY.
SO I'M TRYING TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY.


IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M USED TO BEING ALONE.


IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG SINCE I SAW YOUR FACE
IT FELT LIKE A WEIGHT WAS BEING LIFTED FROM ME
WOULD YOU MIND IF I LAID DOWN FOR A BIT?


ARE YOU OKAY?
GRAND-MOTHER
I'M FINE.



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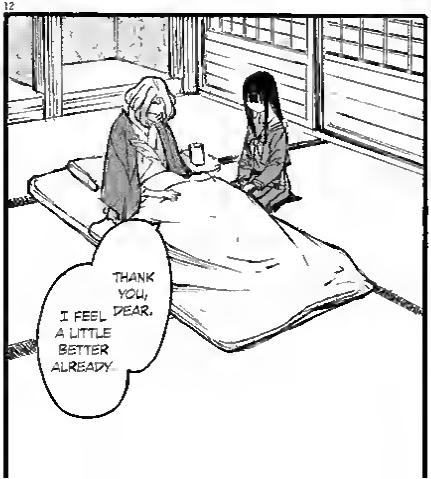
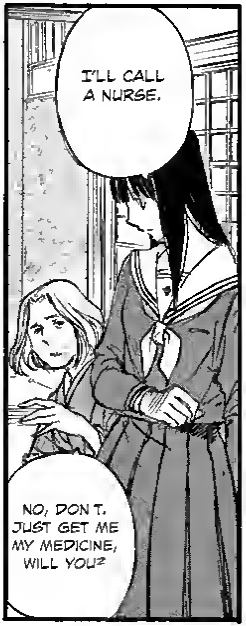
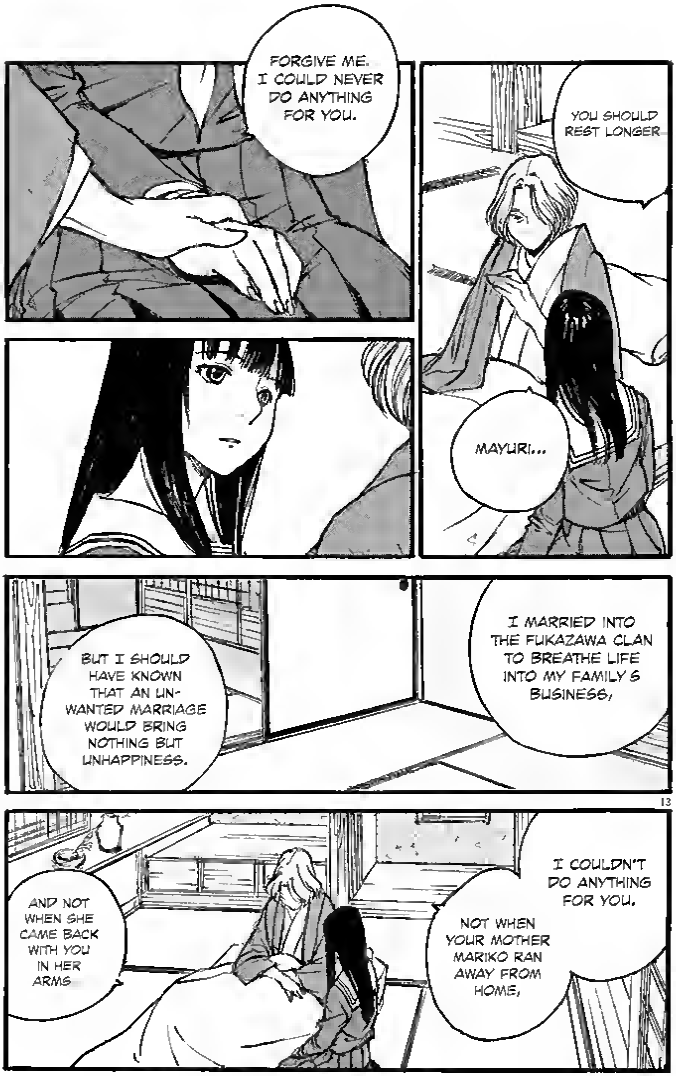

THANK YOU, I FEEL DEAR. A LITTLE BETTER ALREADY.


I'LL CALL A NURSE.
NO, DON'T. JUST GET ME MY MEDICINE, WILL YOU?


FORGIVE ME. I COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
YOU SHOULD REST LONGER.
MAYURI...
I MARRIED INTO THE FUKAZAWA CLAN TO BREATHE LIFE INTO MY FAMILY'S BUSINESS,
BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT AN UNWANTED MARRIAGE WOULD BRING NOTHING BUT UNHAPPINESS.
13
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
NOT WHEN YOUR MOTHER MARIKO RAN AWAY FROM HOME,
AND NOT WHEN SHE CAME BACK WITH YOU IN HER ARMS.

THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN GO AGAINST GRANDFATHER'S WISHES.
I WANT YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLACE WHEN I'M GONE.
THERE'S A COTTAGE IN YOKOHAMA UNDER MY OWN NAME.
IT BELONGED TO MY PARENTS, SO EVEN YOUR GRANDFATHER PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT.
I'VE TOLD MY LAWYER TO GET THE PAPERS IN ORDER FOR YOU.
I WANT YOU TO BE FREE...

IF ONLY...
IF ONLY I'D HAD THE COURAGE TO THROW EVERYTHING AWAY BACK THEN...

Three months later, I received word that my grandmother had passed away.

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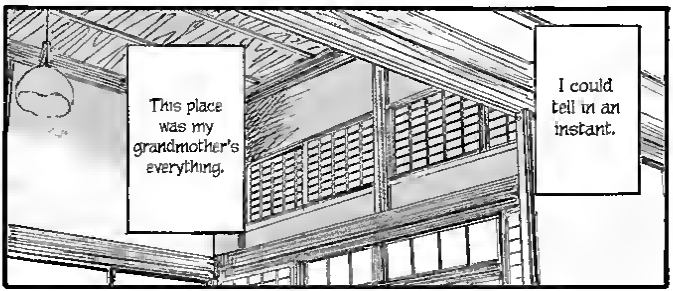
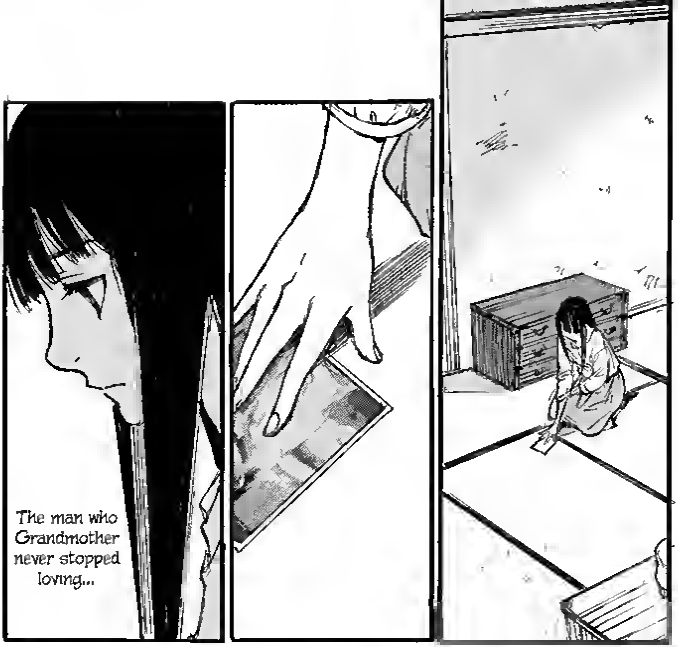
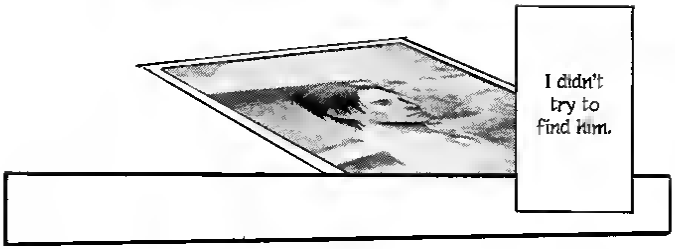

This place was my grandmother's everything.
I could tell in an instant.

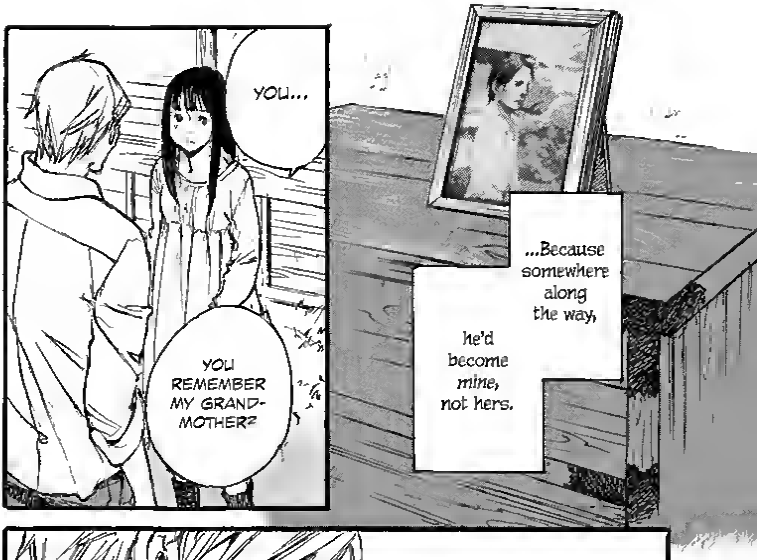
17

All the things she'd held close to her heart, the things she'd given up for the sake of her family.


The man who Grandmother never stopped loving...


I didn't try to find him.

Because the thought of knowing terrified me. And also because ..


YOU...
YOU REMEMBER MY GRAND-MOTHER?
...Because somewhere along the way,
he'd become mine, not hers.

...I TRIED TO FORGET.

19

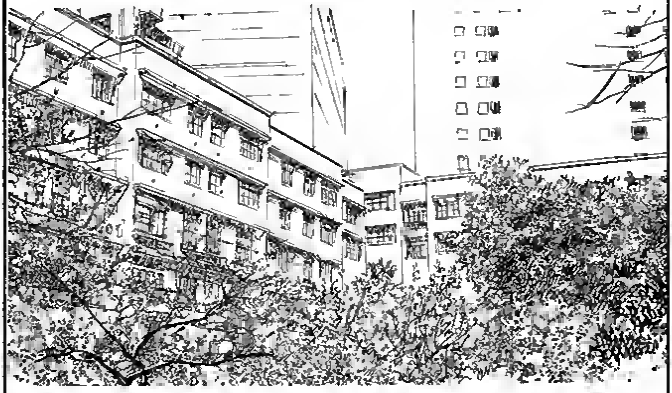
The time that had been standing still began moving once more.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
I...
マホロミ 時空警察分館 2 完

3集に続く

Afterword

I was shooting for two volumes before the year was out, but alas, *Spirits* is a weekly magazine, so I had to draw up a sizable amount before the first chapter goes into print. There was nearly a year of hiatus after that dried up, so thank you so much for waiting. I'll try to get the third volume out faster.

I started this series because I loved contemporary architecture, but the hours of my work made it really hard to go around researching buildings myself, so it's kind of sad.



I had the fortune to see the Doujunkai Edogawa apartment complex when I was a student, and it made a huge impression on me. Maybe that was where all this started. The sight of that crumbling concrete was so amazing. Old buildings project a real sense of presence and weight just by existing, I think.

2013. 1月